

THE SATURDAY EVENING POST

FOUNDED, A.D. 1821

THE GREAT PIONEER FAMILY PAPER OF AMERICA.

Vol. 69.

PUBLICATION OFFICE
No. 134 NASSAU ST.

PHILADELPHIA SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 7, 1889

NEW YORK ADVANCE
FIVE CENTS A COPY

No. 9

O WISTFUL EYES!

BY A. Y. H.

O wistful eyes! Where did you find your gleam?
In the soft radiance of the April skies?
In the rays wavering in the quiet stream
Where pure and white the water-lily lies?

'Mid wondering musings o'er the tangled scheme
Men make of life? or does the lustrous light,
That underlies their pensile beauty, shine
With the hushed glory of the first love dream,

That gives e'en hope deferred restless might,
To make of earth a happy Paradise?
God keep the soul within them fresh and fine,
O wistful eyes!

With Blinded Eyes.

BY THE AUTHOR OF "A PIECE OF PATCH-
WORK," "SOMEBODY'S DAUGHTER,"

"A MIDSUMMER FOLLY,"

"WEDDED HANDS,"

ETC., ETC.

CHAPTER V.

ROWENA went away with her burden a little lightened, unconsciously relieved to learn that she need not always live down to Pattie's level.

By the evening everything was arranged. Mrs. Wyoming had had an interview with Leicester, in which she had assured him of her concurrence in her daughter's choice; and the young man's heart was full of gratitude—hardly of joy, for as yet the great shadow of his life darkened all things even the best and most precious.

She learned also in the course of that conversation, that he had no idea of leaving Eales.

The place suited him well; he was getting used to the house and grounds; and he would not in any case return to Nottingham now that his business was to be finally transferred to his cousin's hands. He disliked London, and had no idea that Mrs. Wyoming preferred it to any other place; he only knew that the people to whom her house had been let for three months had now agreed to take it off her hands for the remainder of the term, so that she was free from all obligations concerning it.

Mrs. Wyoming was disappointed at first, but reflected presently that it would be much safer to stay on at Eales; once the summer visitors were gone there would be no fear of detection, while in London people were always turning up unexpectedly.

Then a house free of all expense throughout the winter was a great consideration, and Leicester had begged her and her daughter to remain as his guests, while yet giving her liberty to rule over his household.

It was a great advantage; she felt quite fond of her niece for having secured it for her. She would be able to dress Pattie well, and render her such an attraction that their friends would always be glad to have her, and so she would be kept out of Leicester's way and be placed in a position to do well for herself.

The evening found Pattie gone with Dolph and Hannah Carbutt to play tennis, while her mother gossiped with Mrs. Carbutt on the lawn at River View, and Rowena wandered down to the gate and stared at the river, and went back round the side of the house, musing over her new prospects, and eyeing half ruefully from time to time Pattie's last year's muslin which she was wearing—her own dresses were to be henceforth discarded, as altogether unlike anything that Pattie was in the habit of wearing.

The girl was unconscious that Leicester was thinking, as he sat alone, how he should have liked to have a row on the river in the cool of the evening had Pattie been there to accompany him, or she would have been at his side immediately, not sorry to escape from the pressure of her own thoughts.

She had sat in Pattie's place at his side at dinner, and the constraint that she had felt in playing her cousin's part had acted as a wholesome check upon her more impulsive manner, so that her few remarks, low and half frightened, had not at all been unlike Pattie in her tired and listless moods.

Two or three blunders had occurred; Pattie had called her Rowena, and she had called Pattie by her own name, as also had Mrs. Wyoming; but Leicester, not being on the alert, had not noticed which was speaking, and so the mistakes had passed without disaster.

When Rowena had blundered she had flushed painfully to the roots of her hair; but to Pattie the matter seemed a joke, and she had scarcely been able to control her merriment.

Mrs. Wyoming had owned that Pattie was tired of her blind lover, but still Rowena was surprised that her cousin did not show some feeling, some lingering regret, in parting from him, and had hinted something of the kind after dinner, upon which Pattie had burst into tears, and protested that she did—indeed she did, only—only things easily made her laugh, though it was but for the moment—when she was not laughing she was—she was—

The end of the sentence had been lost in the sobs which choked her utterance, and Rowena had, in swift compunction, taken the pretty head to her bosom, remembering that Pattie was but a fragile creature—not robust like herself.

Rowena was very much of a woman in her keen insight and infinite compassion, but where her affections were concerned she had a man's heart—a great, tender, all-accepting heart, blind to failings, insensible to weakness, placing the object in the halo of her own love, and thus viewing it, seeing nothing but what was adorable.

She loved Pattie, so she dried her tears and begged her forgiveness, assuring her tenderly that she would never misjudge her so again; and then the girls kissed, and Pattie ran off to her tennis, and Rowena went for her solitary stroll.

After she had walked about till she was tired, she sat down in front of one of the great shrubs on the grass and mused. She longed vainly for the bare school-room and the girls' faces and voices, the dreary garden and the high gates that had seemed like prison bars to unwilling residents—all sweet associations with a happy past that could never come back again.

As she sat thus, lost in unhappy thought, she heard voices and the "swish-swish" of dresses coming nearer and nearer.

Mrs. Wyoming and Mrs. Carbutt were promenading on the lawn, deep in conversation, at a safe distance from the open windows of the house.

Rowena guessed directly the subject of their voluble discourse; she knew what was to be said to Mrs. Carbutt that evening. She only hoped they would pass by the great shrub without seeing her, since she could not move now without attracting their attention, which she did not wish to do.

"Quite the best thing for Pattie, I am sure," was the first remark that reached her ears, from Mrs. Carbutt. "A sweet and pretty girl such as she deserves a better lot."

"Well, I thought so," agreed Mrs. Wyoming, with an ostentatious sigh. "And I am much relieved to have it settled. I have been fearing for some time that it

would have to come to this; I saw he was wearing her out, fragile as she is, with his determined gloominess—so much so that at last I ceased to dread the breaking off of it on her account, for I could see she was wearied out, though she was too sweet-tempered to confess it. However, it is all over now, and better managed than I expected. He himself offered her her freedom, you know, and I took it for her—that was all. He is not at all resentful, or you can imagine I should not be going to take charge of him for a little while longer. He had no unkind feeling, but quite appreciates Pattie's many attractions—poor fellow!—and sees that such a marriage could not be desirable for her. But still, of course, he is not any more cheerful or sociable for the event of to-day, and I must ask you to excuse him this evening. He is not fond of company at any time now, you know, and to-night is less inclined for it than ever."

"Any one would feel such a loss," assented Mrs. Carbutt. "I pity him more than I can express, while yet I am sure that it is for the best, and I think that he himself will acknowledge it in the years to come, when his disappointment has worn off."

"I hope he will," returned Mrs. Wyoming. "And—and I don't mind telling you in strict confidence, that I have some ground for that hope. It is a great comfort to me—feeling, as I do, like a mother towards him—to be able to hope that in depriving him of Pattie I am not destroying his life's happiness."

They had passed behind the scrub in front of which Rowena was seated.

"You must know that my niece is not to return to her school—for the next term, at all events. When it was finally decided that Pattie's engagement should be ended, and also that I should stay on a little longer with poor Charley, until he got more accustomed to his sad condition, of course Pattie was quite left out of the arrangement. I must send her somewhere to stay until I am at liberty again—"

"We should be delighted to have her," interposed Mrs. Carbutt eagerly.

"And I am sure I should be charmed," responded Mrs. Wyoming promptly. "But she must leave Eales—it would never do for her to stay on here. They would always be meeting, and it would be very painful."

"He would not know when she was near," suggested Mrs. Carbutt, "so that she need not stop to speak if they met when out. His feelings could not be hurt, with a little caution on our part."

"No; we must think of her feelings, and I am sure it would be very trying for her," demurred Mrs. Wyoming. "It is very good of you, dear Mrs. Carbutt, and I am grateful to you for thus kindly offering to help me in my dilemma; but out of Eales, I think, dear Pattie must go. New surroundings too will help her to forget."

"To be sure," agreed Mrs. Carbutt, though a little drily, or so it seemed to Rowena. "But—in her ordinary tones—that need not constitute an objection to Pattie's coming to us. The house here is taken to the end of the month, and as ours in Kensington will be at liberty in a few days, I should not mind how soon we returned, to oblige an old friend. Hannah too—I am sure she would be willing to give up the rest of the time here to secure dear Pattie for a long stay; they are so fond of each other!"

"Oh, I could not think of allowing such a thing!" declared Mrs. Wyoming, with a great show of decision; but she did not allow it, after a certain amount of persuading and protesting and hesitating, and it was finally decided among them that Pat-

tie should leave River View at once for their friends' house, and depart with the family for London at the end of the week.

All the time they maintained their position behind the shrub, seeming to consider it a good place for exchanging confidences.

When Pattie's destination had been decided upon, Mrs. Carbutt said—

"You were going to tell me something about your niece, I believe, when I interrupted you with my offer to receive dear Pattie at my house?"

"Oh, yes; I was talking about Rowena!" Mrs. Wyoming spoke with some slight embarrassment, in spite of her carefully cultivated sang-froid.

"Yes," she continued, "she is going to stay with me, and help me to cheer up poor Charley; and I was about to say to you, in strict confidence, that I really should not wonder if by-and-by he were to console himself with her. You will be very careful not to mention it, will you not? It would be so unpleasant for them if it reached their ears, especially if the thing never happened after all."

"Oh, I should never think of mentioning it!" rejoined Mrs. Carbutt.

"She is a clever girl, you know, and seems to understand people, though she is so shockingly uncouth, and altogether unprepossessing; and she manages him wonderfully. I do believe"—impressively—"that she would suit him better than Pattie, if once he were to think so. She is formed in a coarser mould, you know, and his irritability does not wound her as it did my poor dear child, who bore patiently more than I can tell you until I came to the rescue. And in this case her appearance, which everywhere else is so terribly against her, would not signify."

"To be sure!" agreed Mrs. Carbutt. "A very good thing for both of them, if they could see it in that light. But I suppose she would be glad to get such an opportunity"—in a tone of careless commiseration that seemed to pierce Rowena's heart.

"Well, I should imagine so," returned Mrs. Wyoming indifferently. "And, since she can never succeed in society like other girls, it would not be at all a bad thing for her, if she did not mind a blind husband—"

She was evidently smoothing the way for Mrs. Carbutt to hear of their engagement after a time, possibly thinking it wiser to do so than to risk the chance of her hearing it by accident, and perhaps, in her astonishment, working incalculable mischief.

"A very good thing for her," assented Mrs. Carbutt, with emphasis. "No doubt she will have the sense to see it, and not lose the chance if it offers itself."

"I hope so," was the reply. "I don't deny that it would be a relief to me to know that she was provided for. One wants all one has for one's own, naturally, and the thought of anything happening to her so that she should be left helpless upon my hands has often been an anxiety to me. I should have to keep her—there is no one else to do it, and she has nothing of her own—and it would not be fair towards dear Pattie; but, all the same, it would have to be done, unless she could get settled. This will be her only chance, I should say."

"But a very good one," supplemented Mrs. Carbutt, "and a very likely one too, I should think, unless he should prove too constant to your Pattie."

Rowena was indignant, she could scarcely restrain herself from springing out and confronting them with the information that she had never given a thought to the future when she had yielded up the pres-

MY GARDEN.

BY LOUISE MALCOM STENTON.

I have a garden of my life,
With sunshine glowing there;
And in it bloom sweet roses red,
And lilies pure and fair.

Bright songbirds come, and sit and sing,
Of love, and hope, and cheer;
But flit away on dainty wings,
And leave me lone and drear!

FOR LIFE.

BY THE AUTHOR OF "NULL AND VOID."

"MADAM'S WARD," "THE HOUSE IN
THE GLOOM," "WHITE BERRIES
AND RED," "ONLY ONE
LOVE," ETC., ETC.

CHAPTER XXXV.

MRS. VANE, on leaving her brother's lodgings, drove straight to Camden Town. She had reasons for wishing to see Sabina Meldreth.

The house was a little difficult to find, because the street had been recently renamed and renumbered, and Miss Vane was forced, to her great disgust, to descend from the cab and make inquiries in her own person of frowny-looking women standing at their doors.

"I wish I had brought Parker," she said to herself more than once; "she would have been very useful in this kind of work. Surely Sabina has given me the right address!"

"There goes the gentleman that lodges at Mrs. Gunn's!" said one of the frowny-looking women at last. "I've heard tell that he was there, though I didn't know the number. Will you tell this lady, please, sir, what number Mrs. Gunn's house is?"

The white-bearded old man who was just then passing along the street turned to Mrs. Vane.

"I shall be very happy to show the lady the house," he said.

He half raised his hat from his white head with something like foreign politeness.

And then he and Flossy exchanged glances which were hard and keen as steel.

He knew her well by sight; but she did not recognize him. She had seen Westwood only once or twice in her life, and this apparently gentle old man with the silvery hair did not harmonize in the least with Flossy's impression of the Beechfield poacher.

Nevertheless she was suspicious enough to remember that all things were possible; and she made a mental note of his dark eyes and eyebrows, the latter being a little out of keeping with his very white hair and beard.

As a matter of fact, Westwood had gone too far in selecting his disguise; a more ordinary slightly-grizzled wig would have suited his general appearance much better.

The perruquier—an artist in his way—to whom he had applied considered picturesque effect an object not to be overlooked; and Mr. Reuben Dare was accordingly a rather too strikingly picturesque individual to be anything but theatrical in air.

He showed Mrs. Vane the house, bowed very politely, and then passed on down the street.

"She's come to inquire about me—I am sure of that," he said. "I'd better change my lodgings as quick as possible. I'll leave them to-morrow—to-night would look suspicious maybe; or should I leave them now and never go back?"

He was half inclined to adopt this course; but he was deterred by the remembrance of a pocket-book containing money which he had left locked up in his portmanteau. He could not well dispense with it; and neither Mrs. Vane nor anybody else could do him any harm, he thought, if he stayed for twenty-four hours longer at Mrs. Gunn's. But he trusted a little too much to the uncertainties of fate.

"Well, Sabina," said Miss Vane coolly, as, with a general air of bewilderment, that young person appeared before her in Mrs. Gunn's best parlor, "I suppose that you hardly expected to see me here?"

"No, ma'am, I didn't. I thought you was quite too much of an invalid to leave home."

"It is rather an effort," said Flossy drily, "especially considering the neighborhood in which you live."

"It ain't country, certainly," returned Sabina, "but it's respectable."

"Ah, like yourself!" said Mrs. Vane. "That was the reason you came to it, I suppose. Don't look angry, Sabina—I was only meaning to make a little joke. But jokes are mistakes with most people. I came to answer your letter in person and to have a talk with you."

"Won't you have anything to eat, ma'am? We've just finished dinner; but, if there's anything we can get, an egg, or a chop, or a cup of tea—"

Sabina was evidently inclined to be obsequious.

"No, I don't want anything. Who is this Mr. Reuben Dare?"

"That's what I've been wanting to know, ma'am!"

"And who's this Miss West?"

Sabina shook her head.

"She calls him her father—I am sure of that."

"Where does she come from? Where was she brought up?"

"Couldn't say, ma'am. Jenkins says that Miss West used to act at the Frivolity Theatre—he's seen her there about two years ago. Mr. Lepel took her up, as far as he can make out, about a year and a half ago—soon after he settled in London again."

"Do you think that the man Dare has any connection with Beechfield beside that of his recent visit?"

"Yes, I do. He caught himself up like once or twice when I began to talk of it; and once he put me right—accidental like—about the name of somebody at Beechfield."

"Whose name?"

"I'm not sure as I can remember. Yes, I do, though! It was Mr. Rumbold's first name. I called him 'The Reverend Edward,' and he says 'Alfred'—quick, as if he wasn't thinking. So he must have known the place in years gone by."

Flossy sat thinking.

"Sabina," she said at length, in her smoothest tones, "I will take you into my confidence—I know you can be trusted. Of course it would be a great blow to me if my brother married a actress—a girl whom one knows nothing at all about; besides, he is almost engaged to my husband's niece Miss Vane."

She did not add that she had been subtly trying to oppose this engagement by all means in her power for the last few weeks.

"We must try to break off the connection as soon as we can. The more we know about this Miss West's past life the better. I will go to the Frivolity myself, and see whether I can learn anything about it there. And, Sabina—"

"Yes, ma'am," said the woman, as Mrs. Vane paused.

"That mass of white hair, Sabina—do you think it looks quite natural?"

"Mr. Dare you mean, ma'am? No, I don't; I believe it's a wig. I've seen it quite on one side."

"Could you not find out somehow, Sabina?"

"Well, I don't see how," said Sabina slowly. "I've never seen him without it. One night there was an alarm of fire, and everybody rushed to their doors, and Mr. Dare came too; but his hair and his beard and everything was the same as usual. Still I'm sure I've seen it a trifle on one side."

"You provide his food here, do you not? Do you ever help your aunt?"

"Sometimes, ma'am. I take in hives and all that, you know. We're by way of being very friendly, Mr. Dare and me."

"Sabina, if you had the stuff, could you not quietly put something into his tea which would make him sleep for an hour or two? And, when he was asleep, could not find out what I want to know about him?"

Sabina was silent for a moment and then she continued.

"What should I get for it? It's always a risk to run."

"Twenty pound," said Flossy promptly.

"There is little risk."

"And where should I get the stuff?" she asked.

"I—I have it with me," said Miss Vane.

Sabina, who had been standing during the interview, suddenly sat down and burst out laughing.

"Well, you are a deep one," she said, when her laughter was ended and she observed that Mrs. Vane was regarding her rather angrily; "if you'll excuse me for saying so, ma'am, but you are the very deepest one I ever came across! And you don't look it one bit!"

"I suppose you mean both of those assertions for compliments," said Flossy. "If so, you need not trouble to make them again. This is a business-matter. Will you undertake it, or will you not?"

"When?"

"To-night."

"To-night! When he comes in to tea? Well, is it safe?"

"You mean the drug? Perfectly safe. He will never know that he has had it. It will keep him sound asleep for a couple of hours at least. During that time I do not think that thunder itself would wake him."

"You have tried it before, I'll warrant?"

Said Sabina half questioningly, half admiringly.

"Yes," said Flossy placidly, "I have tried it before."

She took a little bottle of greenish glass from the small morocco bag which she carried in her hand, and held it up to the light.

"There are two doses in it," she said.

"Don't use it all at once. A drop or two more or less does not matter; you need not be afraid of making it a little too strong. It is colorless and tasteless. Can you manage it?"

Sabina considered.

"If I put it into the tea-pot, it might be wasted: he might not drink all the tea. He never lets me pour it out for him. Would it alter the look of the milk?"

"Not at all."

"Then I could put it in his cream-jug, and give him so little that he's sure to use it all and ring for more. He likes a deal of milk in his tea."

"Then you will do it, Sabina?"

Again Sabina hesitated. Finally she said, with sudden decision—

"Give me the twenty pounds, and then I will."

"Not until you have earned it."

"If I don't have it beforehand, I won't do it at all," said Sabina doggedly.

Mrs. Vane shrugged her shoulders slightly,

opened her bag, and put the little bottle back into its place.

"You said you could trust me; show me that you can," said Sabina, unmoved by this pantomime. "One of us will have to trust the other. I may do it, and then—who knows?—you may back out of the bargain."

"Did I ever 'back out of a bargain' as you coarsely express it? I think, Sabina, I have trusted you a good deal already."

"Well, split the difference," said Sabina roughly. "Give me ten down on the nail, and ten when I've done the work. I dare say I can manage it to-night. I can write to you when it's over."

"Very well. Here are ten pounds for you; I will give you the other when your work is done. But do not write to me; come to me at the Grosvenor Hotel to-morrow morning. I shall stay the night in town."

"Have you any idea who the man is?" said Sabina, as she received the bottle and the ten-pound note from her visitor's hands.

"Yes, I have; but I may be wrong." "That's not very likely, ma'am. You'd 'a' made a good detective, as I always did think—you're so sharp."

"And I don't look it, as you said before. Perhaps I will tell you to-morrow morning, Sabina. At present I am going to find out all that I can about Miss Cynthia West. You did not give me her address; give it to me now."

She wrote it down in a little pocket-book, and then rose to take her leave. Sabina, who followed her to the cab, heard her tell the man to drive to the box-office of the Frivolity Theatre.

It took Mrs. Vane three-quarters of an hour to reach the Frivolity. It was half-past three when she got there.

She asked at once if it was possible to see the manager, Mr. Ferguson. A gold coin probably expedited her messenger and rendered her entrance to the great man possible; for Mrs. Vane was a handsome and well-dressed woman, and the 'important business' on which she sent word that she had come had possibly less influence on the manager's mind than the glowing account given by the man despatched from the box-office on her errand.

Flossy was lucky. Mr. Ferguson was in the building—a rather unusual fact; he was also willing to see her in his private room—another concession; and he received her with moderate civility—a variation from his usual manner which Mrs. Vane must have owed to her own manner and appearance.

"I shall not detain you for more than a very few minutes, Mr. Ferguson," said Flossy, with the air of a duchess, as she accepted the chair which the manager offered her; "but I have a good reason for coming to you. I think that a young lady called Cynthia West was once acting at this theatre? To put the question in plain words—Do you know anything about her?"

The manager answered a little.

"A good deal," he said. "Oh, yes—she was here! I don't know that I have anything to tell, however. I should think that Mr. Hubert Lepel, if you know him, could tell you more about her than any one."

"I happen to be Mr. Lepel's sister," said Flossy with dignity.

"The deuce you are!" remarked the manager to himself. "That explains—" "Aloud—'Well, madam, how can I assist you? Do you want to know Miss West's character? Well, that was—if I may use the word—notorious.'"

Flossy's eyes gleamed.

"So I expected to hear," she murmured. "I am afraid that my brother has some thought of—of marrying her."

"Oh, surely not!" said Mr. Ferguson. "Surely he would not be such a confounded fool!"

"Can you tell me anything definite about her?"

"Excuse me, madam, for asking; but you—naturally—wish to prevent the marriage, if possible?"

"I certainly do not wish my brother to ruin himself for life, as he would do if she were such a—such a person as you imply."

Mrs. Vane's lips were evidently much too delicate to say in plain terms what she meant.

"If she were as respectable as she seems to be talented, of course objections about birth and station might be overlooked. But my brother has expectations from relatives who take the old-fashioned views about women's position; and the mere fact of her being a singer or an actress might be against her in their eyes. It would be much better for him if the whole thing were broken off."

She was purposely vague and diplomatic.

"Mr. Lepel's his own master of course," said the manager; "so perhaps he knows all we can tell him—and more. But you are welcome to use any information that I can give you."

His little green eyes gleamed with malice, and a triumphant smile showed itself at the corners of his lips.

"Miss West's career is well known. Lalli, a member of our orchestra, picked her out of the streets when she was sixteen or seventeen, trained her a bit, and brought her here. We soon found out what sort of person she was, and I spoke my mind to Lalli about it; for, though we're not particular as to a girl's character, still now and then—Well, she was under his protection at the time, and there was nothing much to be done; so we let her alone. He died suddenly about a couple of years ago; and then, I believe, she accosted Mr. Lepel

in the street, and went to his rooms and fastened herself upon him, as women of her sort sometimes do. He took her up, sent her to Italy for a bit, put her under the care of that woman Della Bonilla—as a blind to the public, I suppose—and got her brought out as a singer; and she seems to have had a fair amount of success."

"Mr. Ferguson's account of Cynthia's career had an intermixture of fact, but it was so artfully combined with falsehood that it was difficult to disentangle one from the other."

Flossy listened with keen attention; it struck her at once that Mr. Ferguson was trying to blacken the girl's character out of spite.

"Do you know where she came from before your musician, Lalli, discovered her, Mr. Ferguson?"

"No, I do not, madam. But I have followed her course with interest ever since"—which was true.

"And do you know where she resided before he died?"

"No, madam—I really do not"—which was utterly false. "Perhaps I could ascertain for you, and let you know."

Flossy thanked him and rose. She had not attained her object precisely; but she had received information that might prove extremely valuable.

The manager bowed her out of his room politely, and called to one of his subordinates to show her down-stairs.

This was a little mistake on Mr. Ferguson's part; he did not calculate on his visitor's questioning his subordinate, who happened to be a young man with a taste for the violin.

"Did you know a Mr. Lalli who was once in the orchestra here?" said Flossy graciously.

"Oh, yes, ma'am! He was here for a very long time."

"Do you know where he used to live?" "Yes, ma'am, No.—Easton Road; it is a boarding-house; kept by a Mrs. Wadsley. He died there."

Quite astonished by her own success, Flossy slipped a coin into his hand and made him call her a handsome cab. She was beginning to think of speed more than the probability of being recognized in the London streets.

To Mrs. Wadsley's then in all haste. The dingily respectable air of the house and of the lady herself at once impressed Mrs. Vane with the idea that Mr. Ferguson had been drawing largely on his own imagination with respect to Cynthia West.

Nothing certainly could be more idyllic than the story of Lalli's devotion to the girl whom he had brought home one night with an assurance to Mrs. Wadsley that she was the daughter of an old friend, and that he would be responsible for payment of her board and lodging until she began to earn her own living.

"He was just like a father to her," said Mrs. Wadsley confidentially; and teach her he would, and scold her sometimes by the hour together. I assure you, Mrs. Vane, it was wonderful to see the pains that he took with her. I see in the papers that she has been singing at concerts lately; and I said to my friend Mrs. Doldrum, 'How pleased poor dear Mr. Lalli would have been if he had known!'"

"He was quite an old man, I suppose?" said Mrs. Vane. "There was no talk of marriage between them—or any attachment of any kind?"

Mrs. Wadsley drew herself up in an offended manner.

"Certainly not, madam—save as a father and daughter might be attached one to another. Mr. Lalli was old enough to be the girl's grandfather; and Cynthia—oh, she was quite a child! I hope you do not think that I should have chaperoned her if any such matter had seemed likely to occur; but there was nothing of the kind. Mr. Lalli was quite too serious minded for anything of that sort—a deeply-religious man, although an Italian, Mrs. Vane."

"Indeed I am glad to hear it," said Flossy solemnly. "Miss West had no engagement—no love-affair, in short—going on when she was with you?"

"Certainly not, Mrs. Vane."

"Did you ever hear her say where she had lived—where she had been educated—before she came to London?"

"I did hear something of a school that she had been at," said Mrs. Wadsley, after a little reflection; "but where it was I could not exactly tell you. They were Sisters, I believe, who taught her—Roman Catholics very probably. 'St. Elizabeth's'—that was the name of the school; but where it is to be found I am sure I cannot say."

"St. Elizabeth's, East Winstead?" said Mrs. Vane quickly.

She had heard the name from the Rumbolds.

"I am sure I cannot say, Mrs. Vane."

"Miss West was not a Roman Catholic, was she?"

"Not to my knowledge," said Mrs. Wadsley, with great stiffness.

Flossy's question had not impressed her favorably; but the words next uttered by her visitor did away to some extent with the bad impression.

"Thank you so much, Mrs. Wadsley, for your kind information! The fact is that a relative of mine has quite fallen in love with Miss West, and I was asked to find out who she was and all about her. Everything I have heard is so entirely charming and satisfactory that I shall be able to set everything right and assure my friends that we shall be honored by an alliance with Miss West. I hope we shall see you at the wedding, Mrs. Wadsley, when it takes place."

"When it takes place," Flossy repeated to herself, when she stood once more in the noisy London street; "but I do not think it

will ever take place. I wonder how far it is to East Winstead, and whether it is worth while going there or not?"

CHAPTER XXXVI.

IT WAS not much after five, and the days were very long. Mrs. Vane found that she could reach East Winstead by seven and, allowing one hour at St. Elizabeth's, could be back in London by half-past nine.

She, who was to be an invalid, who never walked half a mile alone or exerted herself in any avoidable way, now showed herself as unwearied, as vigorous, as energetic as any able-bodied detective in the pursuit of his duty.

She went first to the station where she had left Parker, and gave the maid her instructions.

Parker was to go to the Grosvenor Hotel and engage rooms for the night for herself and mistress, and to see that every requisite for comfort was provided for Mrs. Vane when she arrived.

At half-past seven precisely she was to despatch a telegram which Flossy herself had written for the General's benefit, announcing her intention to stay the night in town.

It was not to be sent earlier, as in that case the General would be rushing off to London to take care of his wife, and Flossy did not want him in the least.

If he got the telegram between eight and nine, he would scarcely start that night, although she knew that she might fully expect to see him in the morning. He was a most affectionate husband, and never believed that his wife was capable of doing anything for herself.

Parker was very much amazed by Mrs. Vane's proceedings, and did not believe the dentist was responsible for them, or Mr. Hubert Lepel either, although Flossy was very careful to put the blame of her detention upon these innocent persons.

She was not allowed to know what her mistress was going to do, but was sent away from the station to the hotel at once in a hansom-cab.

Then Flossy calmly provided herself with sandwiches and a flask of sherry, took a return-ticket for East Winstead, and found herself moving out of the station in a fast train at exactly five minutes to six. It was quick work; but she had accomplished the task that she had set herself to do. Flossy had a genius for intrigue.

She reached East Winstead at seven, and found a cab at the station. The driver to St. Elizabeth's occupied twenty minutes—longer than she had anticipated.

She would have to do her work—make all her inquiries—in exactly one quarter of an hour if she meant to catch the next train to London. Well, a quarter of an hour ought to tell her all that she wished to know.

She took little notice of the beauty and architecture of St. Elizabeth's; these were not what she had come to see.

She asked at the door if she could see any of the Sisters in charge of the girls' school.

"Which—the orphanage or the ladies' school?"

"The orphanage," was Flossy's prompt reply.

Then she was shown into the presence of Sister Louisa.

"I am afraid that I must appear very brusque and abrupt," said Mrs. Vane, with the soft graciousness of manner which proved so powerful a weapon in her armory; "but I shall have to come to the point at once, as I have only a few minutes to spare. Can you tell me whether you ever had a child in your orphanage by the name of Cynthia West?"

Sister Louisa considered, and then shook her head.

"Cynthia is an uncommon name," she said. "I am sure that we never had—at least, within the last ten years."

"It would not be so long ago," said Mrs. Vane. "I have reasons however to think that 'Cynthia West' is not her real name. Would the name of 'Westwood'—Cynthia Janet Westwood—recall any child to your memory?"

Sister Louisa started, and a flush covered her mild thin face.

"Is it possible," she said, "that you mean our lost child Jane Wood?"

"She may have been known under that name," said Florence. "You had a girl called 'Jane Wood,' then? Why do you think that she has any connection with Cynthia West?"

"You mentioned the name of 'Westwood,'" said Sister Louisa eagerly. "Jane Wood's name was really 'Westwood,' but as she was the daughter of a notorious criminal, Mrs. Rumbold of Beechfield, who placed her with us, asked that she should be called 'Wood.' She was the child of Westwood, who committed a dreadful murder at Beechfield, in Hampshire—a gentleman called Vane—"

Here Sister Louisa glanced at the visitor's card.

"You know perhaps," she went on in some confusion; but Flossy interrupted her.

"Mr. Vane, the murdered man, was my brother-in-law. I am the wife of General Vane of Beechfield. I had some notion that this girl Cynthia West was identical with Westwood's daughter, but I could not be sure of the fact. How long was she with you, may I ask?"

Then she heard the whole story. She heard how the child had come to St. Elizabeth's, and been gradually tamed and civilized; of her wonderful voice and talent for music; of the generosity of certain persons unknown, supposed to be the Vanes; of the outburst of passion when

"Jane" heard the lay-sister's accusation of her father and her subsequent disappearance; then—not greatly to Flossy's surprise—of Mr. Lepel's visit, and his search for the girl, which—so far as the Sister knew—seemed to have ended in failure.

"But you have found her after all!" cried the good sister.

Flossy acknowledged that she was the sister of Hubert Lepel, and presumably interested in his charitable enterprises.

"I am so glad! And she is growing quite famous? Dear me, I wonder that Mr. Lepel did not let us know!"

"Possibly he thought that you would be more grieved than pleased by the discovery of her present position," said Flossy, not sorry to aim an arrow at the unknown Cynthia behind her back, and perhaps deprive her of some very useful and affectionate friends. "Miss West, as she calls herself, does not bear a very good character."

She felt a malicious pleasure in bringing the color into the Sister's delicate cheeks, the moisture into those kindly, mild gray eyes.

"She went upon the stage almost at once, and lived—well, I need not tell you how she lived perhaps; you can imagine it no doubt for yourself. I am afraid that she was a thoroughly bad girl from the beginning."

"Oh, no, no—I hope not!" exclaimed Sister Louisa, the tears flowing freely from her pale face. "Our poor Janet! She was a dear child, generous and kind-hearted, although impetuous and wilful now and then. If you see her, Mrs. Vane, tell her that our arms are always open to her—that, if she will come back to us, we will give her pardon and care, and help her to lead a good and honest life."

"I am afraid she will never return to you—she would probably be ashamed," said Mrs. Vane, rather venomously; as she took her leave, "I am so sorry to hurry away, Sister, but I am afraid that I must catch my train. You are quite sure then that Jane or Janet Wood, who had such a beautiful voice, and ran away from you in July, 187—, was really the daughter of the convict Westwood, and that Mr. Lepel and Mrs. Rumbold placed her with you and sought for her afterwards?"

"Quite sure," said Sister Louisa. "There was a vague trouble at her heart—an uneasiness for which she could not account."

Something in Mrs. Vane's manner—something in her tone, her smile, her eyes—was distasteful to the unerring instincts of the pure God-fearing woman, as it had been to the trained observations of Maurice Evandale.

Flossy might do her best to be charming—she might disarm criticism by the sweetness of her manner; but, in spite of her efforts, candid and unsullied natures were apt to discern in her a want of frankness—a little taint of something which they hardly liked to name.

Sister Louisa grieved sorely over what she had heard of Cynthia; but she was also disturbed very much by an unconquerable distrust of this fair fashionable woman of the world.

"I think there is scarcely any link wanting in the chain," said Mrs. Vane to herself, when, just having caught her train, she was being whirled back to the metropolis. "Jane Wood was Cynthia Janet Westwood. She had a fine voice, and was about sixteen years old when she left St. Elizabeth's, July, 187—. In July, 187—, the same year, Laith appeared at Mrs. Wadley's with a girl of sixteen, who also had a fine voice, who had been at St. Elizabeth's, and who called herself Cynthia West. Mr. Lepel had put Jane Wood to school; Mr. Lepel turns up later on as the lover-protector—what not—of Cynthia West. There is not the slightest reasonable doubt that Jane Wood and Cynthia West are one and the same person. That proxy old Sister would prove it in a moment if we brought them face to face. And Jane Wood was Westwood's daughter. Cynthia West is Westwood's daughter. Very easily traced! What will the world say when it knows that the rising young soprano singer is the daughter of a murderer? It won't care much, I suppose. But Hubert will care least the fact be known. He has been too careful in hiding it for that not to be the case. Let me see—Cynthia West—presumably Westwood's daughter—meets a mysterious stranger in Kensington Gardens and addresses him as her father. The mysterious stranger comes from America, and has white hair and a white beard—quite unlike Mr. Andrew Westwood, be it remarked. Westwood escaped from Portland some years ago, and is rumored to have settled in the backwoods of America. I think there is very good reason for supposing that the mysterious stranger is Westwood himself, returned to England in order to secure his daughter's aid and companionship. And, if so, what a fool the man must be, when once he had got safely away, to run his head into a nest of enemies! He must be mad indeed! And, if mad," said Mrs. Vane, with a curiously cold and cruel smile, "the best thing for him will be incarceration at Portland prison once again."

It was growing dark, and she was beginning to feel a little tired.

She put her feet upon the seat and closed her eyes.

Before long she had fallen into a placid slumber, which lasted until she reached the London terminus.

Then she drove straight to the Grosvenor Hotel, where she found Parker waiting and a dainty little supper prepared for her.

Flossy did justice to her meal, and then went to bed, where she slept the sleep of the innocent and the righteous until Parker appeared at her bedside the next morning with a breakfast-tray.

"And there's Miss Meldreth in the sitting-room inquiring for you, ma'am. Is she to come in? I wonder how she knew that you were here?"

"Oh, I saw her accidentally yesterday afternoon," said Mrs. Vane, "and told her to call. I want to know what she is doing in London. Yes—she can come in here, Parker."

Her maid accordingly summoned Miss Meldreth, and then, in obedience to a sign from her mistress, retired rather sulkily. She was not very fond of Mrs. Vane; but she resented any attempt on the part of a former servant to come between her and her mistress's confidences; and she had the impression that there was something between Mrs. Vane and Sabina which she did not know.

"Well, Sabina, how did the experiment succeed?" asked Mrs. Vane quite easily.

In spite of her look of fatigue and her languid attitude amongst the pillows, she spoke as if she had not a care in the world.

"It succeeded all right," answered Sabina shortly.

"What did you find out?"

"They're not real—his hair and beard I mean. It's a wig. He's got grayish dark-brown hair, and very little of it underneath, and whiskers. He ain't nearly so old as we thought."

"Tell me how you managed it," said Mrs. Vane, "from beginning to end."

"Well, ma'am, he came in about five, as usual, to his tea; and I says to aunt Eliza, 'I'll carry in the tray; and I says, 'What a lot of milk you've given him! I'll pour a little back.' And says she, 'You'd better not, for he likes his tea half milk, and he'll only ring for more.' 'Well, then,' I says, 'I'll give me a chance of going in a second time—and, you know I like that.' So I emptied part of the milk away, and then I put half of the stuff that you give me into his jug, and I took it into Mr. Dare's sitting-room. He looked at me very sharp when I went in, almost as if he suspected me of something; but he didn't say nothing and neither did I. I set down his tray before him, and he pours out the tea. Almost before I was out the door, 'Miss Meldreth,' he says, 'a little more milk, if you please.' 'Oh, didn't I bring you enough, sir?' I says. 'If you'll pour that into your cup then, I'll send out for some more, and it'll be here by the time you've done your first cup. The cat knocked a basin of milk over this afternoon,' says I, 'and so there isn't as much as usual in the house.'"

"All that was pure invention, I suppose?" said Mrs. Vane.

"One had to say something, ma'am. He looked a little put out, and hesitated for a minute or two; then he took and emptied the milk-jug straight into his cup, and began to drink his tea; and I went out and filled the jug again. I waited for a few minutes before I came back, and I found him leaning back in his chair, with a sleepy look coming over him directly. 'Miss Meldreth,' he said, 'I'm sorry to have troubled you, for I really don't think I want any more tea'—and then he yawned fit to take his head off—and I'm going to lie down on the sofa to get a little rest, for I am so uncommonly drowsy.'"

"That seems a little sudden," said Mrs. Vane thoughtfully. "Are you sure that he did not suspect anything?"

"No, ma'am—I don't think so. Well, he laid down, and I went in and out taking away the things; and, if you'll believe me, in ten minutes he was fast asleep and snoring like—like a grampus!"

"Well, Sabina?"

"I let him stay so for nearly half an hour, so as to be sure that he was thoroughly off, ma'am, and then I went up to him and touched his hair. It was very nicely fitted on; but it was a wig for all that, and one could easily see the dark hair underneath. The beard was more difficult to move—there was some sticky stuff to fasten it on as well as an elastic band behind the ears; but it was plainly a false one too. He's a dark-looking man, almost like a gypsy, I should say, with hair that's nearly black—something like his eyebrows. Do you think he's the man you want, ma'am?"

"I'm sure of it, Sabina. Do you want to earn three hundred pounds besides your twenty?"

"What, ma'am?"

"Three hundred pounds, I remember, was offered for the arrest of Andrew Westwood, escaped prisoner from Portland Prison, five years ago. This man is Andrew Westwood, Sabina, who murdered Sydney Vane. You shall have the money to keep as soon as it is paid."

Sabina drew back aghast.

"A murderer," she said—"and him such a nice quiet-looking old gentleman! Why, Aunt Eliza was always planning a match between him and me! It's awful!"

Flossy laughed grimly.

"People don't carry their crimes in their face, Sabina," she said. "Now you can go away and wait in the sitting-room until Parker has dressed me. Then you will come with me to Scotland Yard—I believe that is the place to go to. I want that man arrested before nightfall. Here are your ten pounds."

"On," said Sabina, "I wish I'd known!"

"Do you mean that you would not have helped me?"

"I'm not sure, ma'am; I don't like the idea of snatching the poor man up for ever in a goal."

"Perhaps you don't mind the idea of murder?" said Mrs. Vane sarcastically. "Don't be a fool, Sabina! Think of the three hundred pounds too! You shall have it all, I promise you; and I will content myself with the satisfaction of seeing him once more where he deserves to be. Now call Parker."

Sabina went back to the sitting-room, not daring to disobey. Her reluctance, moreover, soon vanished as the thought of those three hundred pounds took possession of her. She was so absorbed in golden dreams when Mrs. Vane rejoined her, and was quite prepared to do or say whatever she was told.

[TO BE CONTINUED.]

GOOD AND BRAVE.

ACCOUNTS of the hardships and struggles of a poor Finnish girl, Irene Alstrom, have touched many hearts. Through marvellous perseverance, and meeting every obstacle with firm and cheerful heart, she has conquered all difficulties, and now rejoices in the well-earned honor of having been the first of her countrywomen to receive a diploma as a Doctor of Philosophy.

When a young girl watching her father's cattle she was filled with yearnings that she could not express to know what books and study could teach her concerning the wonders of science and the wisdom of the past, and then and there, upon the bleak mountains of her native land, she determined that nothing but death itself should hinder her success.

Under the influence of dark clouds, through which no ray of light gleamed, she for a time prayed earnestly that the dear God would take her to Himself, feeling sure that then all knowledge would be unfolded to her.

This state of affairs having reached the ears of a humble pastor, interest was made for her entrance into a good school, where she passed as fourth among forty-six young girls.

She was then eighteen years of age, and all this had been accomplished through intense and earnest will.

Sitting up all night, while others slept, to prepare for the next day's task, often fasting, "save for the fresh snow she ate as she walked," was as nothing if so be she could continue her work—the great plan to which her soul clung tenaciously.

Then came an experience of teaching, and after having saved four pounds she again set forth in quest of knowledge. With the scantiest of luggage she journeyed on foot to Helsingfors, where she prepared for her examinations.

Three pounds of her small store were paid in advance for lodging, and this made her sure of a home for the winter. The last pound was expended in loaves of hard round rye bread—the cheapest kind of nourishment with which she could provide herself, and which was meekly divided that every day until Christmas a bit was sure.

No fire had she even when the temperature was recorded at thirty degrees. But her soul was on fire, for a friendly professor gave her instruction in Latin, and very rapid was her progress.

After her matriculation she taught awhile to help her family, and still went on with her own studies, until "a well-earned brilliant degree" was her reward.

Strangely enough, her strongest opposition was from her own sex, but bravely triumphing over even that, she was recognized by her nation as the dauntless pioneer of woman's progress.

The statement given concerning this wonderful woman adds that she still lives, honored and appreciated by all, devoting herself heartily to the education of younger brothers, and adding continually to her own hard-earned culture, her whole soul bent upon the advancement and education of her countrywomen.

COMFORTING TO HER GUEST.—"It ain't everybody I'd put to sleep in this room," said old Mrs. Jinks to the fastidious and extremely nervous young minister, who was spending the night at her house.

"This here room is full of sacred associations to me," she went on. "My first husband died in that bed with his head on these very pillows, and poor Mr. Jinks died setting right in that corner. Sometimes when I come into the room in the dark I think I see him settin' there still."

"My father died layin' right on that lounge under the window. Poor pal he was a Spiritualist, and he allus said he'd appear in this room after he died, and sometimes I'm foolish enough to look for him. If you should see anything of him to-night, you'd better not tell me, for it'd be a sign to me that there was something in Spiritualism, and I'd hate to think that."

"My son by my first man fell dead of heart disease right where you stand. He was a doctor, and there's two whole skeletons in that closet that belonged to him, and half a dozen skulls in that lower drawer."

"Well, good-night, and pleasant dreams."

WEDDING GIFTS.—Among recent fantastical wedding presents, no doubt a cordial welcome was given to half a dozen little oussies, with richly-chased bodies and jeweled eyes and whiskers, which were destined to serve the purpose of salt-cellars. Whether the precious gift of a mummy's hand, contributed by a learned professor to a blushing bride, equally delighted the recipient, is questionable; and the little Spaniard dog, measuring eight inches, which the bride appreciated so highly that she took him on the wedding tour, may not perhaps, have had equal attractions for the bridegroom.

The happy should not insist too much upon their happiness in the presence of the unhappy.

BY THE MILL.

Out in the fir wood, down by the mill,
We sat on a day when the wheel was still.

The wheel was still, but the little brook sang,
And it frolicked and danced till the wild wood rang.

I looked at my love, and his eyes shone blue;
And I loved my love, for, oh! he was true!

Out in the fir wood, down by the sea,
I sat one day when my love left me.

He left me for ever, and the sea shone blue,
Alas, for the false heart! alas, for the true!

ROY'S CHOICE.

BY M. G. WIGHTWICK.

CHAPTER I.

MY DEAR GEOFFREY! You must get Roy out of it in some way. The idea is preposterous! My son, Fitzroy Pierrepont, the heir of Braxholme, marry an obscure librarian's daughter! It's altogether out of the question, Geoff, and I shall rely on you to prevent it if possible.

"But, my dear aunt—"
"Now, Geoffrey, you can't desert me," and Lady Lucy Pierrepont held out her pretty hands imploringly. "Have you not always been my refuge in all Roy's scrapes? And this is the worst and most desperate of all. If only he had never spent that month at Uskebank!"

"It's very unlucky. Roy is just the sort of susceptible fellow to fall in love with every common-place woman he meets. And he always did turn his nose into awns."

"No doubt the girl is an artful, designing wretch, and did her best to entrap my poor boy."

"Have you any plan to propose?" and Major Pierrepont pulled his moustachios thoughtfully.

Lady Lucy shook her shapely head in doleful despair.

"I hardly know. Roy seemed terribly obstinate when I spoke to him the other day; out," brightening, "perhaps you could do something with him, Geoff? He has always looked up to you. Do try, this very evening, and beg, threaten, coax or bribe him out of it. I should think no sacrifice too great."

"Would you even consent to that Australian trip he has been bent upon so long? Six months' absence would cure him."

"Do you think so? Then persuade him to give her up by all means and go, dear Geoff. I shall bless you for ever if you only succeed."

But Major Geoffrey Pierrepont had several *totes-a-totes* with his wilful young cousin before he could lay any claim to his aunt's promised blessing, and when, at the end of a week, he again turned up in her boudoir, it was with rather a rueful countenance.

"I've won Roy's consent, but only on condition that I interview the girl myself and get her to release him. It's a horrid business!"

"But, Geoff, that is all we want. How clever of you! And if the girl is 'difficult,' you know, I shall think a thousand or two well spent in buying her off. Offer what you like."

Thus liberally commissioned, and provided with Miss Bevan's address, Major Pierrepont took his unwilling way, next morning, towards the gloomy regions of Bloomsbury, wondering within himself what sort of syren such a triste neighborhood could have furnished to beguile his butterfly cousin.

Indeed, the librarian's daughter might never have crossed Roy Pierrepont's path at all, but for a fishing expedition he had made the previous autumn to an out-of-the-way Monmouthshire farmhouse where the Bevan's also had their holiday-quarters.

"Geoff, old boy, if it must be done, do it tenderly," had been his cousin's parting words.

Geoffrey felt anything but tenderly disposed towards this inconvenient disturber of the family peace as he sought among the dingy houses in Great Russell Street for the particular one that had been described to him as that inhabited by the librarian and his daughter.

All this time, in a dark front parlor, not many paces distant, a girl, singing blithely over her work the while, seemed trying to convert the dull sitting-room into a back-ground more worthy of her.

And yet not that either, for the unconsciousness with which Una Bevan wore her crown of beauty was its greatest charm.

Upon the table near lay a heap of bright laburnum blossoms, which she was arranging deftly in quaint-shaped flower glasses, and disposing about the faded room, which sadly needed a little cheerful coloring.

"He will see, at least, I've made the best of the old place," she said to herself, as she paused a minute to admire her handiwork. Then, with a hasty glance at the clock—"Twelve o'clock! He will be here directly!"

She gave a comical look of dismay at the heap of flowers still on the table; and, in truth, at that very moment a sharp ring at the front door bell brought a sudden blush to her cheek.

Una tried to recover her composure as she lifted a pair of tall specimen-glasses, from which a golden rain of blossoms trail-

ed prettily, to their place on the Queen Anne mantel-shelf of carved wood high above her head.

The blush had almost faded as she turned to greet the visitor announced by the little maid-of-all-work.

And then a sudden shade of disappointment fell upon the bright young face.

Major Geoffrey Pierrepont was a personable-looking man, but—when one was expecting Roy!

The intruder, however, whose brown eyes were taking in every detail of the room and its occupant, advanced with a bow (Geoff's bow was always superb!), and going straight to the point, as was his wont, began boldly:

"Forgive this intrusion, Miss Bevan: you expected my cousin. I am here to explain the reason of his non-appearance."

His listener's face involuntarily clouded as she exclaimed:

"He is not ill? He has met with no accident?"

"Don't be alarmed. He is perfectly well; and yet"—with a pause kindly meant as preparation for his tidings—"I am the unwilling bearer of ill news."

"Yes?"
Her paling cheek betrayed her uneasiness; but she said calmly:

"I am forgetting hospitality. Pray sit down."

Perhaps she herself was not sorry to sink down upon the faded chintz couch behind her.

Major Pierrepont carefully avoided looking at his companion as he took a chair opposite, near enough to note how nervously, in spite of her outward calm, she twirled the ring upon the fourth finger of her left hand.

He began to fear—this kind-hearted Geoffrey, who was not so cynical as he looked, not so insouciant as he would fain be supposed—that his task might prove even more disagreeable than he had in the least expected.

The victim whose happiness he had come to blight was so young, so innocent, so light-hearted; a very different being from the "artful wretch" Lady Lucy's imagination had painted.

She was also so—so—not pretty; why? pretty would have been the very faintest of adjectives as applied to Una Bevan!

While trying to find another more suitable, Geoff mentally catalogued her charms:

"Then, two lips, indifferent red; then, two grey eyes with lids to them—"

But he stopped. No inventory could tell how sincere, how earnest, how trustworthy were those soft, warm eyes, now grey, now hazel; nor describe the strong, sweet curves of the well-shaped mouth which even in silence spoke its owner's character.

Una Bevan was lovely—nothing less; Geoff could not help admitting it. He half repented of his ungracious mission, and decided that his first care should be to ease his own shoulders as much as might be of the burden laid upon them.

"I ought to explain," he began, with unusual diffidence, "that I am here to-day merely as the ambassador of my aunt, Lady Lucy Pierrepont, who is deeply distressed to hear of the unwise—arrangement existing between you and her son."

"Do you refer to my engagement?"—emphatically—"to Mr. Fitzroy Pierrepont?"

The well-cut features stiffened into frigid fineness, and Miss Bevan drew herself up ever so slightly.

"I do. My cousin can scarcely have explained his position truly, or you must see the folly of supposing such an engagement could ever be carried out. The estate of Braxholme is unentailed and entirely at Lady Lucy's disposal; should Roy marry without his mother's consent, he will forfeit his inheritance."

"Well, and what then? My engagement is not to the heir of Braxholme, but to Mr. Fitzroy Pierrepont."

"Granted; but if *fait vivre*! Remember that my cousin has no profession, and is dependent upon his mother's favor for even the bread he eats. My aunt, Lady Lucy, is a proud woman. If you had any experience of the world and the world's ways you could not fail to understand how much this marriage which her only son proposes goes against the grain with her. Excuse my plain speaking."

"I do excuse it. In this matter you are but the mouthpiece of Lady Lucy, who condescends to explain herself through you."

The quiet scorn in her eyes would have annihilated anyone less tough than Geoffrey Pierrepont.

But he only smiled cheerfully as he said, with good humor:

"I hope I may tell her, then, that my errand is accomplished, and that Miss Bevan's own good sense prompts her to release my cousin without delay from his foolish promise?"

"You may do no such thing. What is Lady Lucy to me, that I should consider prejudices? Mr. Pierrepont is of an age to know his own mind. Poverty, to me at least, is no novelty; and if we choose to endure it together, who dares to interfere?"

There was a proud flash in her grey eyes and her swift look at Geoff was a challenge that for a moment he could not find words to reply.

In the pause the door opened, and a grey-haired man, bent rather with infirmity than age, slowly tottered into the room with the help of a stick.

The likeness of his handsome features bore to those of his daughter proclaimed the relationship between them. Her manner softened instantly.

She sprang to meet the new comer, put his hand upon her strong young arm, and

with infinite tenderness supported him to the well-worn leather chair in the chimney corner, where she hastened to make him comfortable with footstool and cushions.

All this time she totally ignored the visitor, who having risen and closed the door again, was waiting in some embarrassment till she should make him known to the master of the house.

When the brief introduction took place at last, Geoffrey was unprepared for the old librarian's courteous greeting and apology for an invalid's infirmities.

He spoke with an air of culture and good breeding which made one forget his shabby coat and poverty-stricken surroundings, and Geoff felt ashamed when he thought of the blank cheque in his pocket and his aunt's offered bribe.

"We know one Mr. Pierrepont already, sir," Mr. Bevan said, with a host's gracious dignity. "Anyone of that name is welcome for his sake. Isn't it so, Una?" turning to his daughter, who still hovered about his chair.

An involuntary faint color tinged her face which had been so pale before, and once more Geoff Pierrepont marvelled at its rare beauty.

To her father her slight embarrassment seemed only natural. His eyes rested upon her proudly, with a smile that was like a benediction, and then turned inquiringly upon the visitor, as though claiming the admiration Geoffrey was not in the least loth to give.

But he presently remembered his unpleasant errand, and pulled himself together sternly.

"I am an invalid just now, sir, as you see; and must leave my daughter to entertain you," Mr. Bevan went on. "I know you are in good hands."

Major Pierrepont bowed, and murmured something inarticulate, wondering how his business was ever to be concluded; for something in Una Bevan's face as she stood with her hand on her father's shoulder seemed to warn him not to mention it in the old man's presence. The master of the house himself relieved him from his difficulty.

"Una, Major Pierrepont has just made his acquaintance with one of my treasures; I should like him to see the other. Take him into my library, and show him the collection of rare editions, which has cost us many a sacrifice of small luxuries. You may find something to interest you, sir, even if you are not, like myself, a bibliomaniac!"

Major Pierrepont, nothing loth, seized the opportunity, and with eager thanks followed Miss Bevan into a sunny little parlor littered with books, tier upon tier, from floor to ceiling; piles of others, mostly in antique bindings, lay about also on every available resting-place.

But the visitor was allowed no time for inspection.

The sunbeams dancing in played upon the time-worn volumes, some in their path-way lighting on the slender form of Una Bevan as she stood facing Geoff—tall, erect, defiant.

"Well!" she cried. "Have you anything more to say?"

"Only this," he answered gently: it was his last and weightiest argument. "No one who really cared for Roy Pierrepont could wish to spoil his life so utterly as this foolish marriage must do. With all his good qualities, he has neither the stability nor the health to make his own way in the world, hampered with a wife whose social position is inferior to his own. His friends, his family, would turn against him; his mother—"

She put up her hand and stopped him suddenly.

"I should be extremely sorry to incur the displeasure of such a great lady as Lady Lucy Pierrepont, but I cannot give up my affianced husband at her bidding. Only Mr. Pierrepont's own wish can put an end to our engagement. He is capable of managing his own affairs without the interference of a third party," with a haughty glance at Geoff. "Let him choose between his mother and me."

The frozen calm had melted now. Just as an opal now and again reveals in transient gleams the hidden heart of fire beneath its tranquil surface, so for once Una Bevan's overwrought feelings escaped her control.

"He has chosen," Major Pierrepont said gently.

A curious half-ashamed feeling for this faintest head of his house, whose excuses he was making neither for the first nor the second time.

"Great as the trial is, my cousin yields to his mother's better judgment," he went on. "He would—would be willing to accept his dismissal."

"Then let him tell me so himself!" she cried defiantly. "Who are you, to come between him and me? A word from himself would suffice, but not volumes of argument from either you or his mother. I think," rising with a very proud glance, "I think there is no need of prolonging this discussion."

"Wait one moment, Miss Bevan. Perhaps this will convince you that I am speaking the truth."

He took a letter-case from his pocket, and found among the contents an envelope, bearing his own eagle-crest, addressed to Miss Bevan.

Geoffrey felt very full of pity for the girl as she took the note and read its brief contents.

Then she raised her head, and looked steadily at Major Pierrepont as he stood opposite only in haste to have it over and be gone.

"You know the contents of this letter I suppose?"

"Yes."
Having dictated it himself, there was no room for denial.

"I am satisfied," proudly, coldly. "You may tell Lady Lucy her son is free; and for himself—"

She paused. Geoff was reassured by her calmness.

"Have you any message? My cousin talks of leaving England." A bitter smile curled her well-cut lips.

"The precaution is unnecessary. But, as you are such a willing go-between, there is this ring—"

She took a scrap of paper from a Davenport ring, drew from her finger the ruby-studded near which was its only ornament, and, with hands that never trembled, made of it a little packet which she gave to Major Pierrepont.

"That," she said sharply, "will speak for itself."

He bowed in silence, and turned away. There was no more to be said.

A moment later, he had closed the door upon the calm, emotionless, beautiful face he should, in all likelihood, never see again, congratulating himself that it could be so calm still.

After all, the blow was a blow of ambition, to pride; for, possibly, even a librarian's daughter might have her pride as well as a peer's; but the fresh young heart at least was undaunted.

This was Geoffrey's crumb of comfort. He had been worldly-wise, but not at all cruel.

The small maid-of-all-work was not forthcoming to show the visitor out. He had to grope for his umbrella in the dim hall, and his unaccustomed fingers fumbled a minute or two with the intricacies of the latch.

When the door was at last open, he suddenly remembered that he had left his letter case behind.

He shut it again with a bang that shook the house, and, going back to the library, pushed open the unfastened door with an apology on his lips which was arrested in the utterance.

In the shabby leather chair, near the table, sat Una Bevan, her arms resting upon it, her head bowed down between them in an agony of grief.

Her whole frame was quivering with convulsive, noiseless sobs, as Geoffrey Pierrepont stood irresolute, while his accusing conscience said, with stern up-braidings: Behold your work!

His pocket-book lay on the table, within reach of his hand; but he had forgotten his errand—forgotten everything but the unhappy victim of Pierrepont pride cowering before him in the intolerable misery of this rude awakening from her brief dream of happiness.

Perhaps there was some magnetic fascination in his intent, compassionate gaze, for presently the pretty head with its be-ruffled curls, was lifted suddenly, and a pair of grey eyes, scorched by hot tears, confronted Geoff fiercely.

"You, again! What! Have I still more to bear from you? Or are you come back to feast your eyes upon my horrible misery?"

To the full as wretched as herself, Geoff staggered his excuses, snatched up the unlucky pocket-book, and somehow got to the door.

There a sudden impulse seized him. He stepped back to the table, and, leaning across it, said:

"Miss Bevan, try to forgive me the pain I have caused you, and don't think more hardly of me than you can help. Mine has been an ungracious errand. If I had known in the beginning all that I know now, I think—perhaps—I should never have undertaken it."

It was a great, almost traitorous admission, but Geoff felt more comfortable after making it.

"I wonder shall we ever meet again?" he said to himself, as he walked away.

"Well, one thing, she must hate me now, heart and soul. She might forgive my errand, but never my having witnessed her humiliation. Heigho! If I had been in Roy's place I'd have stuck to such a prize through thick and thin, and snapped my fingers at all worldly-wise advisers."

CHAPTER II.

It is early spring-time in the year of Grace, 1887.

In a handsomely furnished sitting-room on the first floor of the Hotel Millereaux, in one of the favorite health-resorts of the Riviera, two people are sitting in earnest conversation.

The one, a lady, reminds us faintly—for she is greatly changed—of the Lady Lucy Pierrepont of ten years since.

From the bronzed face of her companion look the pleasant brown eyes of her nephew, Geoffrey Pierrepont. He has changed, too, has grown older and graver, and his thin face shows traces of recent illness.

Ten years have brought him promotion and several grey hairs.

Colonel Pierrepont is on his way back from India, where he has been serving with his regiment these many years past, and now, preferring to loiter in warm latitudes till winter is a thing of the past, he has come to join his aunt on the Riviera.

Their talk has been of melancholy subject in the old familiar strain, for even in their first meeting after a long separation, Lady Lucy has fallen naturally into her old habit of confidence.

Geoffrey was so reliable, a tower of strength to the poor woman who had in her

character an ivy-like tendency to clutch at the nearest support.

"I have always trusted you as a son, Geoff; in a way you have been more comfort to me than my own poor boy. And now that Fitzroy is gone you must take his place; you are my nearest kinsman and heir."

Then looking up at him plaintively she continued:

"You won't grudge a little of your time to Branxholme and to me? It will all be your own some day."

Geoffrey was a man of few words. He got up, and bending over his aunt, kissed her faded cheek; a silent recognition of his new responsibilities towards her.

And then for a few moments poor Lady Lucy Pierrepont broke down and sobbed audibly.

Her loss was but a few weeks old, and the sight of Geoffrey had recalled it to the childless mother in all its first freshness. But it was a relief to talk of her son to so patient a listener, and Lady Lucy soon dried her tears.

"Poor Roy! He had been ill for months, but it was almost sudden at the last; and, as I write you, I did not reach Brodighera in time to find him alive."

"But his wife was with him?"

"Poor thing! Such a helpless creature! I've settled a handsome annuity upon her and packed her back to her friends in Australia. Not my style at all! No sir! No manner! (between ourselves, not even a lady!) I don't know how the poor creature would have managed all alone but for Mrs. Beaudebert."

"Mrs. Beaudebert?" questioned Geoff. The name was new to him among his aunt's acquaintances.

"Yes; Mrs. Beaudebert. All through Roy's illness she was kindness itself, both to him and his wife. I believe she had met poor Fitzroy somewhere or other long ago; and when she found them at Brodighera apparently friendly, and, and—" with a sigh—"hard up for it seems he had gambled away his last napoleon at the Monte Carlo tables, the good creature took pity on them, moved them into comfortable rooms and sent all sorts of luxuries for Roy's use. Poor fellow! he did not want them long."

"And where is Mr. Beaudebert?"

"Dead, these three years. He was a younger son of Lord Villebois, a judge in India, and tremendously clever they say. Wrote legal works—'Beaudebert on Marriage Settlements,' or something of that sort. I dare say you've heard of it, though I never did."

Geoffrey shook his head.

"Not in my line, aunt."

"No, dear Geoff. I wish it were. You must really begin to think seriously of settling now. You have done your duty to your country, now consider your duty to Branxholme. As head of the family, I must provide you with a wife as soon as possible. I know two or three people who would suit."

"Do you? I don't," said Colonel Pierrepont, with a smile. "The only person who ever kept her place in my heart a day was — Well, you wouldn't approve of her for a niece."

"Indeed! I'm so anxious to see you married, Geoff, that I would overlook a great deal. Who is she?"

"Mrs. Beaudebert," announced one of the girls.

The door was thrown open before Colonel Pierrepont had time to answer, if, indeed, he had intended answering at all.

If Geoffrey Pierrepont had made any mental picture of himself of poor Roy's good Samaritan it was quickly blotted out by the original, as ideals often are.

There entered a stately figure in trailing sable robes whose very severe simplicity had a grace of their own.

Two hands enfolded Lady Lucy's, and then as Geoff drew himself up tall and straight, two clear grey eyes met his. In what vague dream had that beautiful face frowned or smiled upon Geoff before?

He began to believe then and there in the theory of pre-existence: an eerie feeling of familiar strangeness deprived him for the moment of his presence of mind.

"Your visits are always apropos, my dear," Lady Lucy was saying, "but to-day especially so. This is my nephew, Geoffrey, of whom you have heard me speak. Colonel Pierrepont; Mrs. Beaudebert. I mean you two to become great friends in the future."

Perhaps it was this rather ill-judged speech, perhaps it was the Colonel's awkward consciousness of looking ill at ease, and therefore, at a disadvantage, perhaps Lady Lucy's mention of Geoff had been over-abundant.

Whatever the reason, Lady Lucy's favorite and Lady Lucy's nephew did not take to each other comfortably.

[TO BE CONTINUED.]

THE BIG TOED PEOPLE.—The strangest of all the Indo-Chinese races, the ancient Gao-Chi or Big Toed Race, is called in our geographical the Anamese. This extraordinary people are about the ugliest and worst-built of all our semi-civilized Asiatic cousins.

They are much shorter than the Malays, darker skinned, with lower foreheads, less-developed skull, a flatter nose, larger mouth, thicker lips, blackened teeth, gums often destroyed by the use of betel-nut, very prominent cheek and jaw bones, so that the face is license shaped, short neck, shoulders sloping abruptly, and a see-sawing sort of gait when walking. But the most curious development of all is the big toe.

It is very large, broad, and flat; more-

over, the distance between that member of the foot and the other toes is so great that the Chinese so long ago as 2357 B. C. gave them the name of Gao-Chi, or the Big-Toed Race.

This curious physical formation is such that it quite marks them from all other Asiatic peoples who walk barefooted; and, strange to say, though more than forty centuries having passed since this peculiarity was first noticed by Chinese travelers, and in spite of frequent intermarriages with other races, the Anamese have transmitted, without the least perceptible modification, this formation of the foot to their descendants of to-day—which fact, according to some ethnologists, serves to prove that the Anamese are not descended from the mingling of indigenous races, but rather that they have existed for an immense period of time as a distinct and peculiar race.

However this may be, in a funny old Siamese legend the origin of the Anamese race is attributed to the prayer of a pious Buddhist missionary, the sole survivor of a shipwreck crew, who, finding himself cast on the beautiful coast of Anam, with no living creature in sight save multitudinous flocks of wild geese, prayed the Adhik Kerma, or First Cause, to change these wild geese into human beings, so that he might instruct them in the doctrines of the Buddha. Then and there the flocks swooped down at the feet of the suppliant, and were, in the twinkling of an eye, transformed into crowds of men, women, and children, without a vestige of their former condition as web-footed creatures save the broad, flat, distended big toe.

A FUNERAL IN CHINA.

It was at Tientsin on a winter's day. Far off from the city I heard the sound of strange, slow, and melancholy music. A funeral procession was approaching, and as it drew nearer I was able to note all its details.

At the head of it were two men, who wore felt hats, from which hung old red feathers, and who were dressed in black tunics.

As they advanced they strewed the road with pieces of gold and silver paper to pacify the bad spirits wandering on the way.

Next came the musicians, followed by the grave makers, who held embroidered banners and purple satin umbrellas.

These in their turn were followed by servants, who carried on a litter a little paper house, some feminine garments, also of paper, which seemed like the clothes of a doll, some small models of wagons drawn by pasteboard mules, a little sedan chair, and various implements of domestic use, all small and painted like the toys of children.

The relatives came next dressed in very deep mourning—that is to say, in long white surplices, and with their heads covered with black hats, from which the usual drapery had been removed.

They wept with loud cries in conformity with the rites of their religion, and a few of them pretend to be hardly able to support themselves, an observance prescribed in the traditional funeral ceremonies.

Then came the coffin, carried by eight servants. It was of an enormous size, but without any ornaments.

A faded blue and gold tunic was thrown over it, for this was a simple burial, and the body they were carrying to its last resting place was that of a person of the middle class.

Around the catafalque walked priests with shaved heads, dressed in grey and yellow, chanting in a language they did not understand themselves the pious invocations of the divine Buddha.

A file of carriages, draped with white linen, closed the procession.

In the front part of each carriage the women of the family, and also several who were hired for the occasion, huddled in groups, uttered screams and lamentations which contracted their painted faces into hideous grimaces.

Now and then they suddenly stopped their cries, assumed a perfectly indifferent manner, breathed on their frozen fingers, talked in a loud voice from one carriage to another, calling attention to the sparrows that were circling in the air and uttering sharp cries as if they had lost their way in the immensity of the sky.

Then as suddenly as they had stopped, they recommenced their screams and horrible noises. Even among the relatives of the dead there was not one sincere expression of sorrow, not one real tear.

It was a grief altogether feigning, of which every intonation, every gesture, was studied and in conformity to given rules. The death of her whom they were lamenting must have taken place at least two or three weeks before, and the sorrow of her friends had had time to become calm.

In order to provide for the long journey that she has to make, the dead had to be interred with the greatest care.

The ritual demanded also that she should be carefully arranged in her coffin.

First they attired her in her silken dresses, which had woven in the cloth bouquets of flowers, rosettes, and fantastic dragons. Then they tightened the bands of linen which bound her feet.

A hairdresser fixed the complicated edifice of her hair with pins of gold, butterflies of filigree silver, and artificial flowers. They spread white lead on her thin cheeks, and placed black patches on her temples and on the end of her chin.

They painted her shrunken lips red, and enclosed her fingers in a long gold box. Thus prepared and dressed, they wrapped her in two winding sheets—one white, the

other red—and laid her in her coffin on a bed of limestone.

The family and friends placed in the coffin amulets and leaves of acorns to keep the evil spirits away.

Arrived at a spot where the tombs were not so densely crowded, the funeral stopped. The catafalque was placed on the ground, and all drew around in a circle. Now commenced the last ceremonies of the funeral.

There had been no grave dug, but following the custom practised in the north of China, the coffin was simply laid on the ground covered with a thin layer of earth.

At first the parents and the women came one after the other and knelt beside the coffin, paying to the soul of the dead some strange salutations, while the Buddhist priests continued chanting their psalms.

Then the sticks of strange incense were lighted, of which the warm perfume spread in bluish clouds in the chilly atmosphere.

Suddenly the flames burst forth; they had set fire to all the miniature objects they had brought on the litter.

These small dwellings, dresses, carriages, and all the equipments of a doll, were to supply her material needs in the other world where she was to dwell henceforth. In this dark world she needed the light of the tapers they had just lit to direct her first steps in that supernatural and invisible world where go all the animated creatures of our real and tangible world, when the elements that compose them are destroyed.

She was going to commence a new life, or rather to continue her former one. There would subsist of her a sort of phantom, retaining the lineaments of her physical physiognomy and the traits of her moral personality; a shadow animated by the undecayed life of a dream; an effaced image of that which she had once been.

Thus in the future she would recommence the course of her terrestrial existence; she would feel all the emotions, the passions of her earthly life; and everything which had charmed her when on earth and had filled her mind would be a part of the existence she was to lead.

During the first few years she would not be abandoned by the living; she would remain in relationship to them.

They would make her offerings, visit her at fixed dates, and through the medium of parents and friends she would continue to participate in this life from on high.

Each year on the twenty-third day after the second moon, which is "all souls' day," they would come and pull the weeds that grew around her tomb, throw a few shovelfuls of clay on her coffin, and recite some prayers.

She seemed to them like a dream, which had taken body like a visible breath; they felt her secret presence, and those who had loved her would fancy that they felt the beating of her heart.

She would hold with them long speechless communications, exchange imperceptible smiles that strengthened the relationship of the heart.

Then in the house of her parents there would be offered her a funeral repast composed of fish, rice cakes, boiled meat, fruits, tea, and brandy. They would light wax candles, put spring flowers in the large bronze vases on the domestic altar, burn perfumes of Tibet, gold and silver paper. She would come then, and take her place at the festival; she would rejoice at the sight of the viands; would nourish herself with the perfumes of the dishes, with the flavor of the tea, and fruits, and the alcoholized vapor of the wines.

She would gather the smoke from the gold and silver paper and silently retire, while her guests consumed the substantial part of the meal.

After, however, years have glided away, after generations have disappeared, the honors she will receive will be less frequent, less personal, and her earthly existence will be like an effaced recollection, her life beyond the grave will be more vague and confused.

The ceremony was ended: the priests chanted their last prayers, and once more made their great salutations before the coffin which the workmen had finished covering with a thin layer of clay. Then the assistants dispersed, and the drama of the grave was at an end.

GOOD FOR EVIL.—Cato said that wise men have more to learn of fools than fools of wise men. Probably he meant that, being wise, they would learn more.

Everywhere the wise man is the apt learner; and the lesson of avoidance is one which wisdom will ever glean from the exhibition of folly. While the examples of good and great men are powerful in winning us to love and to imitate their excellencies, those of an opposite description may exercise a warning and restraining effect.

The cruelty which excites horror and indignation may lead us to cultivate kindness and compassion. The selfishness which appears in such repellent features may cause us to dread and shun it. The fretful and peevish temper, so disagreeable to witness, may stimulate us to be cheerful and patient.

The sight of dishonesty, with its lamentable results, may be the turning-point in the career of one just beginning to swerve from strict rectitude. Certain it is that we may, if we will, in some of these ways, reap harvests of good from the evil that is all around us.

Bobby, interrupting his grandfathers' conversation, who is reading "Grandpa's" Grandfather, irreverently: "Yes, yes; what is it?" Bobby: "Do you think I'll be as cross as you when I grow up?"

Scientific and Useful.

PUTTY.—Excellent putty is made of eighty parts of Spanish whiting and twenty parts boiled oil; make it into a thin paste. If not for immediate use, raw oil should be used in place of boiled.

OIL CARTRIDGE.—There has been invented an oil cartridge for use at sea in making rough water smooth. The cartridge is fired from any form of firearm, and is so constructed that, on touching the water, the oil will escape and spread the surface.

PHOTOGRAPHIC PRINTING.—A process has been invented by means of which photographs can be printed almost as fast as a newspaper, and without dependence on sun or light. They are said to be of the first quality. That, of course, would make photographs much cheaper.

TO CLEAN WHITE MARBLE.—Mix well together 1 oz. of potash, 2 oz. of whitening, and a square of yellow soap cut in small pieces; let it boil for about ten minutes, and apply with a large brush to the marble; let it remain for about twenty-four hours, and wash it off carefully. A paste made by mixing equal quantities of ox gall and soap with half the quantity of turpentine, and thickened with pipeclay, is also very good.

THE TELEPHONE.—It has lately been suggested in France that the patients in hospitals who are suffering from infectious disorders might be placed in verbal communication with their friends at stated times by means of the telephone. The idea seems to be an excellent one, and would confer a privilege that would be much appreciated by both friends and patients. The expense would be trifling compared with the amount of happiness which a realization of the scheme would bring about.

TATTOO MARKS.—A writer in a French scientific journal gives the following recipe for eradicating tattoo marks with success. The skin is first of all covered with a strong solution of tannin above the marked places, re-tattooed with a needle, and then rubbed with a stick of lunar caustic (silver nitrate). Afterwards, the skin is treated with powdered tannin several times for some days, with the result that a dark crust is formed, which subsequently comes off, leaving only a redness behind. This, after a time, almost disappears.

Farm and Garden.

EGGS.—The freshest eggs are the heaviest, and when placed in water will sink to the bottom at once; older eggs will sink partially to the bottom, while stale eggs float on top.

THE POULTRY.—Don't forget to keep your poultry-house well whitewashed. It can be done once a month and benefits your stock. If you respect the health of your flocks their houses must be kept clean.

SINK-HOLE.—A small amount of crude carbolic acid (about a tablespoonful in a gallon of soap suds) poured in the sink hole will destroy foul odor and also prevent the propagation of flies, as the acid destroys maggots. The soap suds assist in preserving the ammonia of the sink.

TO TOWN.—The farmer who strays off habitually to town or elsewhere for pastime loses interest in his work, forgets what is to be done and goes down to the dogs by sure degrees, leading a pinched and miserable life on land that might have supplied him and his with more than competence.

KICKING COWS.—To keep cows from kicking when being milked let a strap be buckled around the cow just forward of the hip bones and allowed to come nearly to the floor. In this let the milker put his foot as it hangs, drawing it tight over the kicker's back, and she will usually keep her feet on the floor.

GRAIN STACKS.—In building grain stacks it will be economical to place some rails, old boards, hay or straw on the ground before commencing the stack. In case we have a wet fall or your thrashing is delayed, there will not be muddy or rotten butts to go through the machine or musty grain to go into the bin.

THE POPPY.—A new use has been discovered for the poppy. It forms a network of roots that cannot be exterminated without great difficulty, and it is therefore admirable for keeping embankments in place. Within the last two or three years eminent French engineers have undertaken the sowing of railroad embankments with poppies, with a view to prevent their being destroyed by heavy rains.

SATING THE MANURE.—Manure should be composed of fine materials, not only to hasten decomposition but to facilitate the handling of it. A certain degree of heat is necessary, as heat is simply the result of chemical action, but as soon as the materials in the centre and near the bottom of the heap are decomposed the heat should be handled by turning the materials over. When this is done all the coarse materials or those recently added should be thrown to the centre and well saturated with liquid manure, the whole covered to protect against the sun and rain. Should the heat become too high make holes in the heap with a crowbar and pour cold water until you can get an opportunity to turn it again.

THE GREAT PIONEER FAMILY PAPER.



PHILADELPHIA, SEPTEMBER 7, 1889.

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Of Moral Law.

Moral science is the science of moral law. Whenever men observe that two events are so connected together, that, as often as one precedes, the other always follows it, they apply to such a connection the name of law.

They also call the first event the cause, and the second the effect. For instance:

It has been observed that when water is cooled down to a certain point it becomes solid, or is changed into ice; and hence chemists have laid it down as a law that water freezes at this particular point.

Again, they have observed that if its temperature be raised to a certain point it turns into vapor, or boils; hence they have laid it down as another law that, at this particular point, water boils; that is, they mean to inform us of the universal fact that whenever, under given circumstances, the one event occurs, the other event also invariably occurs. And they say that cold is the cause of the freezing of water, and heat the cause of its boiling.

But it is evident that two events could not be thus invariably connected unless there were some power exerted to connect them, and some being who, at all times and in all places, exerted this power.

Hence the fact that the laws of nature exist, teaches us the existence of the Supreme Being, the creator and preserver of all things. And hence every change which we see is a proof of His existence.

And it is also evident that the Creator has connected events together in this manner in order to direct our conduct. Thus, having connected a certain degree of heat with the boiling of water, he intends to teach us that if we wish to make water boil we must raise it to that degree of heat.

And thus, in general, since he adheres unchangeably to the laws which he has established, we can never either accomplish any purpose or produce any effect by attempting to do it in any other way than in that which He has appointed.

Let us now apply this to morals. Every one knows that he perceives certain actions to be either right or wrong. Every one feels that it is wrong to lie, to steal, to murder, to be cruel.

Every one feels that it is right to tell the truth, to be honest, affectionate, kind and grateful.

And, if even a young person will think for a moment, he will perceive that there are certain results which always follow these two sorts of actions.

If any one do wrong, as for instance, if he lie, or steal, or abuse another person, he feels a peculiar sort of unhappiness, which is called the feeling of guilt. He is afraid of being detected, he wishes he had not done it, and if he be detected he knows that every one dislikes and despises him for his conduct.

And, on the contrary, if he have done right,—if he have told the truth, have been grateful, or have returned good for evil,—he feels a peculiar sort of pleasure, he is satisfied with himself, and knows that all men will look upon him with respect.

Now, as these events and a multitude of others are thus found connected together, we designate such a connection by the term law. And, as the foundation of this connection is what is called the moral nature of an action, we call the law a moral law.

As we find these events, namely, pleasure following right actions, and pain following bad actions, to be invariable, we know that they must have been connected together by Supreme law. And as they are manifestly connected for the purpose of teaching us, we may hence learn how we should act.

Thus, if God have always connected pleasure with honesty and pain with dishonesty, it is as plainly his will that we should be honest, as though he had said so by a voice from heaven.

If every murderer in a country be punished with death, is it just as clearly a direction for our conduct without any written prohibition of murder as with it.

By thus observing the consequences of actions we may learn what, in many respects, is the law or will of our Creator. Besides this, however, we have a revelation of his will made in the Holy Scriptures, in which he both informs us how we should act, and also makes known to us still further the consequences which he has connected both with obedience and disobedience.

THE days of martyrdom for opinion's sake are over; but even when it was at its height the joy of the belief, the faith and the trust which the truth inspired, rose triumphant over all the pains and sorrows which the cruelty of man could devise. And that joy remains to all who care for truth. To those who search for her and find her, and treasure her when found, she will prove a friend who will never disappoint and a joy which none can take away.

WHATEVER hurts a man in body, mind or heart hurts others also. If his health or powers are injured, his ability to assist others is lessened; if his character deteriorates, so must his influence. If he throws away advantages, he cannot communicate them; if he does not develop himself, he cannot develop others. There are indeed few more effective means of hurting others than by injuring our own character or lowering our own moral tone.

ADVICE is offensive, not because it lays us open to unexpected regret or convicts us of any fault which had escaped our notice, but because it shows us that we are known to others as well as to ourselves; and the efficacious monitor is persecuted with hatred, not because his accusation is false, but because he assumes that superiority which we are not willing to grant him, and has dared to detect what we desire to conceal.

EACH one of us is bound to make the little circle in which he lives better and happier. Each of us is bound to see that out of that small circle the wisest good may flow. Each of us may have fixed in his mind the thought that out of a single house may flow influences that shall stimulate the whole commonwealth and the whole civilized world.

WE should never be content. There is always something to alter, to abandon, or to pursue; and in that honest earnest work which our consciences approve we shall find neither room, time nor inclination for the idle and selfish spirit of dissatisfaction which paralyzes our powers, destroys our happiness, and renders us unable to bless or help our fellow-men.

NOTHING is so improving to the temper as the study of the beauties, either of poetry, eloquence, music or painting. They give a certain elegance of sentiment to which the rest of mankind are strangers. They draw off the mind from the hurry of business and interest, cherish reflection, dispose to tranquility and produce an agreeable melancholy, which, of all dispo-

sitions of the mind, is the best suited to love and friendship.

THE desire of advising has a very extensive prevalence; and, since advice cannot be given but to those who will hear it, a patient listener is necessary to the accommodation of all those who desire to indulge in the odious habit. A patient listener however is not always to be had—and good counsel is thrown away upon those who are absorbed in their own reflections.

TALENTS are usually shown in preferences more or less strong, and upon their wise and patient cultivation depends the realization of our ideal. "To him that bath shall be given" is an inexorable law. The individual end to be accomplished will always vary; but the common end of success is fixed and universal.

THE ruin of most men dates from some vacant hour. Occupation is the ardor of the soul. There is a satirical poem in which the devil is represented as fishing for men and fitting his bait to the taste and business of his prey; but the idler, he said, gave him no trouble, as he bit at the empty hook.

LOVE, sympathy, help, knowledge, intelligence—the best part of our inner lives—what an infinite harvest might be reaped out of them were they given and taken, combined and recombined, with all freedom and harmony! Yet how continually is this work hindered by our own unacceptiveness!

GRIEF and pain come alike to all, and cannot be escaped by any; broken hearts are to be found in palaces as well as in cottages, and the bond of brotherhood seems strongest when love and pity unite all hearts and reverence for what is good lifts up our souls.

THERE is no better preventive of nervous exhaustion than regular unforced muscular exercise. If we moderate our hurry, lessen our worry, and increase our outdoor exercise, a large proportion of nervous diseases would be abolished.

THERE are two things which will make us happy in this world, if we attend to them. The first is, never to vex ourselves about what we cannot help, and the second never to vex ourselves about what we can help.

THE only way in which capital can increase is by saving. If you spend as much as you get, you will never be richer than you are. It is not what a man gets, but what he saves, that constitutes his wealth.

WE know not what particular temptation may assail us in the future, but we can so order our present life as to weaken wrong desire and withdraw the force of evil influences.

IT is a fact that before we begin to think we seem to know everything, while when we set about thinking in earnest we seem to know nothing.

AS to the pure all things are pure, so the common mind sees far more vulgarity in others than the mind developed in genuine refinement.

IF the wicked flourish and thou suffer, be not discouraged. They are fatted for destruction; thou art dieted for health.

NECESSITY is cruel, but it is the only test of inward strength. Every fool may live according to his own liking.

EVERY man has three characters—that which he exhibits, that which he has, and that which he thinks he has.

OUR interests are grains of opium to our consciences, but they only put it to sleep for a terrible awakening.

IN the same brook none ever bathed him twice; to the same life none ever twice awoke.

FIND earth where grows no weed, and you may find a heart wherein no error grows.

The World's Happenings.

Harvest hands in Oregon demand \$3 a day and board.

The Czar of Russia spends an hour a day chopping down trees.

A cat that will drink beer is one of the curiosities of Calumet, O.

A letter can now be sent around the world in 60 days, via Vancouver.

The only cross-eyed cow in the country is owned by George Williams, of Comley, O.

An infant in Bridgeport, Conn., fell from the third-story window to the ground and escaped injury.

A Kentuckian recently sold a lot of mules by weight. The price paid was about 14 cents per pound.

The colored giantess, Laura Wolford, who died at Lafayette, Ind., recently, "weighed 900 pounds and measured 3 yards around the waist."

It has been computed that the average growth of the finger nail is 1-32 of an inch per week, or a little more than one and one-half inches per year.

California fruit growers, who used to throw away their peach pits, are now getting \$6 a ton for them. They are worth this for fuel. They make a hot and aromatic fire.

Villard, Dakota, is now reduced to one house and one newspaper. It is doing more good for the world than Gardner, Montana, with seventeen houses, sixteen of which are saloons.

A remarkable accident occurred to the pitcher of a base ball team at Weir, Kansas. The force of the delivery of a ball broke his arm square in two between the shoulder and the elbow.

Sylvester Hallock, a wealthy farmer of Port Jefferson, L. I., is said to be dying of lockjaw, which has ensued from a wound on the inside of one of his hands, caused by his falling on a plowshare.

A colored congregation out in Indianapolis having split, one faction nailed up the church doors, and the other, not to be bested, held services on the steps, a policeman being present to preserve order.

A German lieutenant practicing with a balloon got his foot entangled in the valve line and was carried for two miles with his head downward. The balloon lit without breaking his neck, but he was insensible.

Matthew Smith, for many years the official garbage contractor of Brooklyn, died lately. One of his eccentricities was always to send a load of coal as a present to every young couple in his ward on their marriage.

John K. Davis, of Cincinnati, is said to be very proud of the fact that he has the smallest man's hand in the country. He cannot get, except with difficulty, a glove small enough to fit him. The size of his hat is not announced.

According to recent statistics, 653 people were killed in France from 1832 to 1882 by lightning. Of these 457 were men and 196 women. The majority of the deaths occurred in the open fields, and not in mountainous regions, as might be supposed.

For years a Springfield, Mass., horse suffered from a sore shoulder. This week a veterinary surgeon made a close examination of the shoulder and found a 25-cent silver piece deeply imbedded in the flesh. How the coin got there is a mystery.

Rev. Frederick Mayer, pastor of a church in Lansing, Michigan, recently drew \$5,000 in a lottery. His congregation are raising a big row about his action, but he says he has done no wrong and is going to keep the cash. A vacancy will be made in his pulpit.

King Leopold, of Belgium, is not only the sworn enemy of tobacco, but he is a vegetarian, dislikes music, and is the embodiment of many other eccentricities. One of these is an aversion to wearing his hat in the open air, as he believes the action of the wind on his head is beneficial.

The greatest national debt among the nations of the globe is borne by France. It is about \$6,250,000,000. Russia comes next with \$3,600,000,000; then England with \$3,500,000,000; Austria-Hungary with \$1,450,000,000; Italy with \$2,250,000,000; Spain with \$1,307,500,000, and Prussia with \$1,000,000,000.

Lord Tennyson's 80th birthday has been celebrated by the English press with a characteristic rumble because the poet still draws his pension of \$1,000 which was awarded to him 40 years ago. His books sell by hundreds of thousands, and he is a rich man. Why should he take public money, of which other writers are in sore need? is asked.

A man in ignorance of the fact that his hand was off was found by a policeman walking on the railroad track at Lynn, Mass., early on a recent morning. It was afterwards learned that shortly before daylight, while he was asleep under a shed with his hand on the track, a freight train backed and severed the member. The amputation was as cleanly done as if a knife had been used, though it numbed all the nerves of the arm. He admitted having been drinking, and didn't look unlike a tramp.

A railroad laborer living at Minnesota City, Minn., put a heavy log chain about the neck of his 12-year-old son, locked it so tightly that the boy was nearly choked, and then went away to work. Two or three hours later neighbors carried the lad to a blacksmith shop, where the chain was removed. When the father got home the neighbors turned out in force and after a struggle chained him by the neck to a post. The boy had been offended by treating a lot of sheep which had been confined in a pen and were suffering for water.

New Haven, Conn., police recently detected a saloon keeper who was selling liquor on Sunday in a curious way. An officer accosted Eastlick, having first secured a good spyglass. He took a position where he could see the saloon and watch it. Presently he saw some men enter, and he thereupon gave a signal by waving a handkerchief to a squad of officers stationed in a house near the saloon. They also had a glass, and when the signal was given descended upon the saloon. The proprietor was arrested and fined \$50 and costs the next day.

TO MY FRIENDS.

BY JOHN JERVIS BRESFORD.

Dear friends, when I am dead,
Think, sometimes say,
At morn, or noon, or point of dying day,
"I wish that he were with us—had not fled."

For whether far or near,
In earth or sky,
To you, I think, I must be somehow nigh,
And such regret it would be sweet to hear.

"Think of me at my best,"
When brain and heart
Did, of what store was theirs, their wealth
Impart,
Think of me thus, and not by pain oppress.

Pain passes; that will last
Delying death
Which in us felt earth's rapture—long'd for
breath
To sing life's largeness—present, future, past.

The Top of Her Bent.

BY FAYE MADOC.

ONCE upon a time there was a Princess who believed so ardently in the supernatural, that at last she thought and talked of nothing else, and occupied herself solely in discussing dreams and spiritual manifestations, and she surrounded herself with people only who had seen visions and whose strange dreams had (or had not) come true, and who had received spiritual manifestations and seen apparitions—or at least whose second cousins and great aunts had witnessed the extraordinary.

Now the Princess dwelt in a palace which had once been a place of luxury and delight, where people could move about fearlessly during all the twenty-four hours of every day and night.

But now that this Princess reigned in it, it was haunted by spirits, and, so where one might, some intangible presence or some eerie appearance filled every nook and corner of it.

One day the Lord Chamberlain met a Shadowy Lady in Blue on the staircase, who seemed to gaze at him out of eyeless sockets.

The Lord Chamberlain did not fail to relate his adventure, and the next day the first Maid of Honor encountered the same lady in the picture-gallery.

Then she was seen by the Chief Page; then by the Mistress of the Robes. Soon she had been seen by the whole household, including the Princess herself, and thenceforth the Eyeless Blue Lady became a denizen of the palace and walked there as freely as its royal mistress.

Next, a phantom coach was heard at midnight to drive up to the palace portals and a phantom hand rang furiously at the great bell.

No eye saw this vision. The curiosity of those who peeped remained ungratified. But the sounds were heard by many, and those who heard shuddered and clung to each other in dismay.

Soon, unusual things happened in the palace with regularity and frequency. Nightly, a cold and terrible hand was laid upon the cheek of the Lord Chief Justice after he had extinguished his light.

Nightly also, a rustling gown passed through the chamber of the Generalissimo of the Army.

On Sundays, at two in the early morning, a hysterical laugh was laughed at the bedside of the Princess herself, and at an hour before cock crow every month when the moon began to wane, feet scuffled, a heavy body fell, and a deep and dreadful groan was uttered in the apartment of the Poet Laureate.

An intangible monk seemed to inhabit the library; an invisible but bloody presence was felt to pervade the ball-room.

Men shunned the smoking room at the going down of the sun, because at that hour the apartment was permeated by the faint and exquisite aroma of a tobacco no mortal had ever inhaled.

The grand piano in the drawing-room was constantly played upon, and when the Princess and her suite entered in haste—although but that instant the room had been ringing with melody—the piano would be found closed and the apartment void.

Children scampered up and down the wide staircases, when there were no children within a mile of the palace.

Dogs whined at closed doors, and lo! when one arose to admit the creature, no dog was to be found.

In short, there was no end to the extraordinary occurrences which took place in the Princess's palace daily.

The Princess grew thin and haggard, and her large and luminous eyes looked as if they would fall out of her head.

And her whole court grew meagre and pallid also, and none spoke above his breath, and the women clustered together in twos and threes, and when any one entered a room, the occupants would ask at once, "What have you seen? What have you experienced? What did you dream last night?"

Then some who had formerly held high offices at the court, but who had been displaced because they were incredulous of the Princess's second sight, and because they had declared that the only way desired to see ghosts was that, for they said that ghosts existed not, drew together in consultation and agreed that something must be done.

"Let us prevail upon the Princess to marry. Marriage is a healthy state," said one.

This proposition was received with unanimity, and an audience of the Princess being obtained, two gentlemen, who had once been respectively Prime Minister and Chief Court Physician, were admitted into Her Royal Highness's august presence.

They found their royal mistress—who was herself as slender as a lily and very wan—surrounded by her maids of honor, lean and terrified damsels, and by her ministers of state—cadaverous and melancholy personages.

The whole assembly looked as if it were smitten with some painful nervous sickness; each one glanced hither and thither, as though devoured by some dread expectancy—all started at every sound, and their breasts heaved with inexplicable emotions and their bony hands were clenched convulsively.

For very pity the ex-Chief Physician could have wept. But he restrained himself, while the ex-Prime Minister explained his errand, begging respectfully to inform the Princess that, while she was striving to grasp the Supernatural, the Natural was falling into decay—that the Army and Navy were becoming disorganized, foreign powers were growing aggressive, literature was neglected and art and science forgotten, social evils were unremedied, and the whole realm was becoming disaffected.

Then the Princess said, sighing, "What would you have me do?"

Then the ex-Prime Minister replied with caution, "Madam, we would have your Royal Highness bend your mind from the immaterial to the material. To one so widely read as your Royal Highness we need not to quote the wise man's words: 'Our business is not to know all things, but those which concern our conduct.'"

"But how can we tell what truths may not be revealed to us through spiritual investigation?" said the Princess.

"Madam, truth will reveal itself in its own good time," rejoined the ex-Prime Minister.

"Not so," said the Princess. "Does not the pearl remain hid until the diver plunges into the sea? I have deeply explored spiritual phenomena, and there have been vouchsafed to me visions so transcendent that they were indiscernible to any but the most highly spiritualized, and many other wondrous experiences have been accorded to me, the serviceableness of which will doubtless be revealed in days to—"

"Madam," interrupted the ex-Chief Physician, "does not your Royal Highness know that the senses respond to impressions from within as well as to impressions from without?"

"Sir, what mean you by that?" inquired the Princess, frowning.

"Madam," said the ex-Chief Physician, boldly, "I mean that in the brain messages may be transmitted from the ideational centres to the sensory ganglia, and that these messages from within produce a similar effect to the impressions caused by external stimuli; hence, at the suggestion of the ideational centres, sights may be seen and sounds heard, nay, even tastes, odors and tactual impressions perceived which are not objective at all, but purely imaginary."

"Do you mean, sir," cried the Princess, "that you think I invent the spiritual manifestations in which I rejoice?"

"That which your Royal Highness so aptly suggests is what your Royal Highness's humble servant is fain to think," said the ex-Chief Physician with a low bow.

"If my chief executioner were not confined to his bed, and very ill from the effects of an awful vision which was given to him last night, in which he saw all the executioners of all time waging war against all the executed, and the executed, forming a mighty army, with their heads beneath their arms, subduing them, I would have you beheaded," said the Princess.

The ex-Chief Physician bowed again, and the ex-Prime Minister hastened to say that, putting aside all explanations that might be offered as to the objectivity or subjectivity of spiritual manifestations, he would come to the point by declaring that he and all the rest of her Royal Highness's faithful subjects earnestly desired that the Princess might show herself most gracious towards them, and to this end, trusting that the indulgence of pure and healthy domestic joys would render her more mindful of the mundane needs of her people, they humbly entreated their royal mistress to enter forthwith into the holy bonds of wedlock.

At this the Princess blushed, for she was but a woman, notwithstanding her predilection for the Supernatural.

"But I do not wish to marry," she said.

"Nevertheless, we venture to implore your Royal Highness to reconsider the matter," said the ex-Prime Minister.

"But whom should I marry? Whom could I marry?" said the Princess.

"Madam," began the ex-Prime Minister, "there is the Prince of—"

But the Princess cut him short.

"A Prince is nought to me," she said.

"What have I in common with ordinary mortals who have no cognizance of the spirit-world, who are too gross and carnal to discern the invisible or to apprehend the impalpable, and whose organizations are too coarse to receive incorporeal manifestations? Nay, my lord, if you would have me wed, you must find for me a husband so completely en rapport with the spirit world that he shall pass through the Crucial Test, wherewith I shall try him, and retain not only my esteem and confidence but my adoring reverence."

At these words, the ex-Prime Minister and the ex-Chief Physician drooped their heads dejectedly, while a faint murmur of applause arose from the thin lips of the courtiers.

But a child, who was seated on a stool at the Princess's knee, the orphan son of her nearest friend, asked, "Godmother, what is the Test?"

All listened for the answer. But the Princess was moody, and would not explain.

"When the time comes you will know," she said.

Then the two ex-officers retired, sad and desponding, and the Princess withdrew into a dim chamber, where daily at that hour was heard the music of unseen violins, played high in the air by phantom fiddlers.

The ex-Ministers rubbed their heads and thought. What was this Crucial Test wherewith the Princess should try her would-be husband?

And who would be found to submit himself to the ordeal? The two good gentlemen were sorely perplexed.

But a rich princess need not remain single long, and, as in the legends of fairy-land, suitors quickly presented themselves, each one confident that the Test—however hard it might be—was no harder a nut than he could conveniently crack.

Upon each suitor who was brought before her, the Princess turned her eyes languidly.

"And what is your title to seek my hand?" she asked then.

And one offered her a pack of cards and bade her name the card that should spring from among its fellows.

And another produced lighted Chinese lanterns out of the Lord High Chamberlain's hat.

And another caused his limbs to be tied with cords in many knots and had himself shut up within a small space with a cigarette paper laid up in his knees, and lo, in a moment the curtain was withdrawn and the cigarette was rolled and between the lips of him who still sat there bound with knotted cords.

But the Princess only smiled and said, "That is merely sleight of hand and any juggler can do as much."

Then others came, relating how in the stillest hours of night in locked chambers, friend who were at a great distance appeared to them, and how they had learnt afterwards that at that moment the friend had died, and telling of warning voices which had kept them from starting on some fateful journey and of prophetic dreams which had been realized, and of strange coincidences and marvelous premonitions and eccentric exhibitions of psychic phenomena.

But the Princess still smiled and said, "These are only the normal displays of spiritual force and the lowest servants in my scullery have had manifestations as marked and as unusual."

And some of the suitors went away crestfallen.

But some pleaded to be allowed to undergo the Test, and to these the Princess said, "Tell me of what I am thinking. This is not the Test, but if you can tell me that, you will have accomplished something."

Then each strove to read the royal lady's thought and one guessed one thing and one another.

But none could divine, for the Princess was always thinking that each of her suitors was more tedious and unacceptable than the one that came before.

At last there arrived a young and handsome Professor of Mental Physiology.

"Madam," said he, "there is no need that I should try your patience by exhibiting tricks of legerdemain. All juggleries can I perform. But they are nothing to me, since I can set the Thames on fire, draw blood from a stone, run the gauntlet of criticism, pick a quarrel, nurse revenge, put a rod in pickle, break my mother's heart, teach my grandmother to suck eggs, catch a weasel asleep, get out of bed on the wrong side, raise the wind, play with fire, kill two birds with one stone, keep myself close, laugh on the wrong side of my mouth, save my breath to cool my porridge, keep a secret, steal a kiss, hug the shore, hatch a plot, drive a bargain, swallow an indignity, make a mountain out of a molehill, reduce an argument to an absurdity, double my pace, let money fly, find a verdict, preserve my temper, mince matters, create confusion, magnify my own importance, rivet your attention, take the bull by the horns, and lose myself in a crowd. I can also play upon the imagination and fool a woman to the top of her bent, Madam, your Royal Highness doubtless perceives that my relations with the unseen powers are extraordinary. May it be that to your Royal Highness's most humble servant shall be vouchsafed to pass the Crucial Test, which shall be the key to so great a treasure?"

Then the Princess regarded him with favor, and she said, "Sir, how did you obtain this connection with the Supernatural?"

And the Professor answered, "Madam, I have obtained it by the most careful and incessant cultivation of a certain part of the brain, within which lies the power of being in touch with the unapproached and the unapproachable. In most human brains these supra-normal ganglia are merely rudimentary, and to few is it given so to develop these higher convolutions that their mystic powers are declared. But before these few are spread the marvelous mysteries of the other world, of which grosser creatures know naught, and which they—in their ignorant and undeveloped state—deride."

"Professor," said the Princess, earnestly, "how can I obtain this supra-normal development?"

"Madam," said the Professor, "by perpetually dwelling upon the supra-normal ideas, the supra-normal nerves are set in motion and the supra-normal groove becomes fixed, and presently the supra-normal ganglia dominate the whole existence. The rest of the mind may be dormant. The senses may be dulled and the intellect atrophied. But the supra-normal groove will deepen and the supra-normal nerves will work with more and more activity, till the Highest State shall be achieved—even constant communion with the unperceived and the imperceptible. But if I mistake not Madam, your Royal Highness has already reached this Ultimate State."

"I have thought of the Supernatural and of nothing else for many years," said the Princess.

"And you have perceived?" said he, tentatively.

"Many wonderful things have been manifested to me," said she. "Only this morning the idea of a Strangled Abbot accompanied me from the moment of waking until noon. I did not see it, neither did I hear its last gurgling breath, nor yet did I feel it. But it was given to me to apprehend that it was there by a subtle and indescribable sense, which is vague and invincible, and yet sharp and powerful as a Damascus blade."

"The Supra-normal is ever wonderful," murmured the Professor.

"Yet there are some who call my delicate perceptions abnormal, who attribute my visions to a diseased and morbid fancy, who impress upon me the manifestations I have received are entirely subjective," said the Princess.

"Those are the coarse and groveling natures which cannot soar to the cultivation of the supra-normal faculties," said the Professor with warmth. "The supra-normal faculties of such are more rudimentary than those of the brutes, for even dogs look at us know not what, and how dis-

mally when death draws near."

"Then you do not think that my delight in spiritual communion evidences an unsound mind?" said the Princess.

"A thousand times, no!" cried the Professor, with much energy. "I believe that it indicates the evolution of a sixth sense, which shall substantiate the fourth dimension, discover the chemical properties of spirit, and beside which the functions of the normal senses and the action of the normal brain shall seem like sight and hearing and intelligence in a month old babe. To your Royal Highness is it permitted to be one of the pioneers of this new, splendid and unimaginable development?"

The Princess would have indefinitely prolonged this conversation, for even to a lady whose supra-normal faculties are acute it is not altogether disagreeable to be in rapport with a handsome young man.

But at this juncture the Prime Minister came forward and begged respectfully to inquire whether the Princess would graciously deign to inform him if she intended to apply the Crucial Test to the last arrived suitor.

Then the Princess, turning her large and speaking eyes upon the Professor, said:

"Tell me of what I am thinking. This is not the Test, but if you can tell that, you will have accomplished something."

"Madam," said the Professor bold, "it becomes not me to read your Royal Highness's thoughts aloud. But should an oracle reply to your Royal Highness's command, would it not say, 'Sweet is the rapture of your mutual understanding and the lasting companionship of equal minds is beyond praise'?"

Then the Princess's pale cheek flushed red, for she had indeed been thinking that if she could bestow her hand upon any, it would be upon this handsome and sympathetic professor, whose mind seemed to be a counterpart of her own.

So she said with confusion:

"That will pass, Professor. My thoughts were possibly of some seductive theme."

"Then may I hope that your Royal Highness will impart to me what is the Crucial Test?" said he.

"It is a hard thing," returned she, sighing, for she was reluctant to risk losing the Professor's society.

"Nevertheless, I will overcome it," said he.

Then the Princess groaned within herself, not daring to believe that the Professor should succeed. But at last she said:

"Professor, if upon a certain day, in my sight and in the sight of all my court, you, by your own volition, be snatched away wholly and taken utterly out of our fleshly cognizance; and if, returning to us, you be etherealized as no mortal man has ever been, and if you have had discernments such as no human senses have ever opened unto, then shall I know that your relations with the Supernatural are absolute, and then shall I trust in you completely and adore you with the utmost reverence. This is the Test."

Then all gazed at the Professor expecting that he should be daunted. But he said:

"Madam, be it as your Royal Highness desires. In eight days will I be ready to undergo the Test, and then will I—in your Royal Highness's sight, and in the sight of all the court—vanish wholly from your fleshly cognizance; and returning after a space, I will be fair and spiritualized beyond thought, and my knowledge shall transcend all human discrimination. Now retire we all and let us spend our days fasting and in contemplation, so that our grosser parts may be deadened and our supra-normal faculties intensified to the utmost. And beware, Madam, lest by the indulgence of the smallest normal thought your Royal Highness's supra-normal faculties be but for an instant diminished, for if your Royal Highness's supra-normal faculties should abate their keenness and their expectancy only for the twinkling of an eye, it is most sure that some portion of the mystic drama will escape your Royal Highness's apprehension, and in this case, should the veil of the universe be rent asunder and the spirit-chorus come to meet you, your Royal Highness would be deaf and blind to these inconceivable glories. And I, Madam," he added, in a voice audible to the Princess alone, "I should be cruelly disappointed. For I think that your Royal Highness has developed a mental possibility and a cerebral convolution hitherto unknown among men, and if I find that I am mistaken, if I be compelled to own that your Royal Highness's faculties are but normal and undeveloped—truly, Madam, if I find this to be so, my fate will be indeed bitter, and I shall be of all men the most wretched. I shall have passed through the Crucial Test and I shall be etherealized beyond compare. But if my royal mistress stand without, of what avail will it be that my supra-normal powers are unimpeachable? For without you, Madam, your Royal Highness's faithful servant ceases to exist."

Then all withdrew, and upon the eighth day, when the sun was low, the court was reassembled, and the Professor stood in the midst, clothed in a strange garment, whose texture might not be discovered nor its uses named, and an affable smile was upon his lips.

And the courtiers were lean and pale and heavy-eyed, for they had fasted greatly and endured much contemplation, and the palor and emaciation of the Princess was more than all of theirs. But the Princess's godson was comely and well nourished.

Then the Professor, standing in the sight of the Princess and of all the court, raised his hands and cried with a loud voice, and immediately they saw him not, neither did their eyes behold him during the time that

one might have counted two scores. Then a voice said:

"Welcome me, O my Princess!" and again they saw the Professor standing in their midst.

And he said:

"Madam, did I not see that time hath laid no hand upon your Royal Highness's countenance, I should say that my absence had endured for centuries. For that which no human language can utter has been revealed to me, and the unspeakable and indescribable has been shown to me, and the knowledge of the Supernatural has transfused me and etherealized me as no mortal man hath ever been heretofore; and this your Royal Highness's intensified supra-normal faculties can well perceive."

And the Princess gave her hand to the Professor, and promised to rely upon him for evermore and to adore him with reverence.

But the Princess's godson said, "The Professor never disappeared at all. He stood there the whole time, and I saw him snap his fingers and wink."

Then the Professor said mildly, "Doubtless, my child, you thought you saw me standing there. But you looked with the eyes of your body, and so brief was my absence that it seemed to you I had never gone—as, when you spin a top with a red spot, so rapid is the movement of the top that the red spot seems ever in sight."

And the Professor took the Princess's hand and led her away to the banqueting-hall, and the next day the nuptials were celebrated with great pomp, and the Professor ruled the Princess and her dominions from that time, and there was prosperity in that land.

But the Princess caused her godson to be whipped, and commanded that he should be sent to a Haunted School.

Fedora's Journey.

BY W. A. W.

SHE had been lying outside her bed all night in her heavy mourning garments, with nothing thrown aside but the widow's cap that always looked strangely incongruous with her youthful face and masses of curly hair. She had not closed her sorrowful blue eyes, but neither had she stirred except to feed the six month's old baby, lying amidst the pink ribbons and lace of its berceuse.

But when the moon began to wane, and the dawn was nigh, Fedora Lamarque sprang up, strengthened with a new resolve.

"For you, my baby, my darling," she murmured, "for you I must be brave; and there is no time to be lost. When they come to insist on my submission to the plane, they must not find us here. I will make at least one effort to save myself and you."

Her resolution once made there was no more hesitating. Quickly and noiselessly she went to a light closet or wardrobe, and from the farthest corner brought a dark gray serge travelling costume, worn on the Alps two or three years previously; a shabby hat, and pair of stout walking-boots. Exchanging her widow's garb for these, and putting a change of linen into a knapsack, she then opened drawer after drawer, selecting all that was necessary for the infant's use, and making them into a soft square bundle. Besides this she carried the little child, not arrayed in cream cashmere and satin as usual, but wrapped in a couple of soft, dark shawls. Then, with one swift, sad glance around the luxurious chamber she was leaving, she turned her back upon it for ever.

But she locked the door, and carried the key away. When they came to call her to breakfast as usual, they should think that she was sullenly resenting the threats held out to her on the previous evening; and as they might hesitate to break open the door too hastily, it would give her more time for escaping.

Just as the first streaks of dawn appeared in the summer sky, Fedora glided through the kitchen, and with her baby in her arms, crossed the court-yard to where, in one of the coach-houses, stood baby's perambulator. Her bundle and knapsack were bestowed under its cushions, the slumbering child gently laid upon them, and out into the wide world went the young mother, taking care to leave no other traces of her departure than were absolutely unavoidable. The guardians of this youthful widow, and inmates of Bewleigh Villa, Surbiton, were a brother and sister—the one stern and domineering (few ever ventured to disobey him); the other cat-like in her sleekness and insincerity.

Fedora looked up at their closed blinds and trembled; but they made too sure of her to sleep badly; for hours to come they would dream on, never guessing that she was shaking off a yoke borne from the time her father's sudden death placed his only child and heiress in their power.

In her walks and drives Fedora had learned enough of the locality to know which direction it would be most prudent to take.

It was in London they would seek her, therefore to London she would not go. Neither would she venture near either of the railway stations. Andrew Bewleigh, Esquire, was, or fancied himself, a man of importance in the neighborhood, and no doubt he would be able to have descriptions of her wired to every place she was likely to visit. Her destination was in reality Portsmouth, but would she ever succeed in compassing the many miles that lay between the home she was quitting and that busy seaport town?

This was a question she dare not put to herself just then, lest her courage should utterly desert her. She must go steadily onward, guiding herself by the little map she had slipped into her pocket, and trusting that her simple dress and the perambulator would make every one she encountered regard her as the nurse, and not the mother of her precious charge.

Long before any pedestrians, besides herself, were on the road she had passed through pretty Esher, and Fair-mile, and reached one of the wildly picturesque patches of common that stud the county of Surrey, and lend it a beauty of its own.

Here, careful to husband her strength, she retreated to a thymy hollow at some little distance from the high road, and fed the baby, now wide awake, and crowing its delight at the sweet, fresh morning air, and the wild flowers with which it found itself surrounded.

Here, too, she ate the frugal breakfast with which she had provided herself, and then rested yet longer and studied her map long and anxiously. She was a better walker than her sex in general; during the tour in Switzerland that preceded her marriage she had often compassed fifteen miles per day, but this was a feat only rendered possible by the bracing, exhilarating mountain air, and must not be attempted now. If she could reach Guildford, pass through the town in the dusk of the evening, when no one would be likely to notice her, she must be content. There were quiet spots on the route, to one or other of which she could retreat during the heat of the day; and baby would come to no harm as long as the sun shone, and the skies were blue.

But the night! where should she go when night came?

Fedora assured herself that, once through the town and into the open country again, it would not be difficult to find a secluded cottage or lonely farm-house whose inmates would consent to receive her, and ask no questions; but when the day was actually over, and the High Street traversed with beating heart, least from the portal of one of the old inns Andrew Bewleigh should leap, her strength, both of mind and body, suddenly gave way.

She toiled on, afraid to stop in spite of excessive fatigue and aching feet, for she fancied every laborer on his way home regarded her suspiciously, every policeman eyed her with distrust. The road, too, was so dark, and long, and dreary, and Portsmouth so far off—how could she ever hope to reach it?

Presently she caught sight of a haystack in a field she was passing. The gate was not fastened, so she dragged the perambulator through it, and hastened to ensconce baby's carriage where the hay had been partly cut away, forming a snug nook in which she and the now fretting baby would be fairly sheltered.

The child was soon hushed, and slumbered soundly in the arms of its mother, but Fedora dared not sleep, too. A gang of noisy tramps passed along the road, and loitered by the field-gate long enough to throw her into an agony of terror lest they should invade her retreat. They passed on, but only to bivouac at a short distance, where they lit a fire, quarrelled and fought, shrieks of murder reaching the ears of the terrified woman, who crouched in her hiding-place, afraid to stay, and yet more afraid to fly.

Would it never be morning? And yet, when the sun did rise her fears redoubled, lest its light should betray her to the prowling ruffians, from whom there would be no one to protect her. Not till, with much grumbling and growling, and still wrangling with each other, the half-dozen or so of vagabonds of both sexes trooped back to the town, dared she hurry away in the opposite direction.

But how often might she not encounter similar parties of wanderers, and not be so successful in evading them! Her heart died within her, and her limbs would scarcely sustain her. The woman who kept the little shop, into which she ventured to buy milk and biscuits for the baby, compassionately asked if she were staying in the neighborhood for her health, and offered her a cup of tea.

This she thankfully accepted, and then wandered on, hoping that the feelings that night of terror had engendered would gradually pass off. But they did not; her head ached—her limbs were stiff—and the effort of soothing the pretty child—who seemed to share her mother's discomfort—was almost beyond her.

Sail, no thought of going back to Bewleigh Villa entered her mind. Onward she plodded, feverishly eager to reach, before night fell, another large town, where she thought she might venture to enter a hotel, and after a few hours' rest hire a vehicle to carry her to her destination.

But every mile seemed longer, and the sun more scorching; and when someone who had drawn near unobserved tapped her on the shoulder, she dropped as if killed, one faint moan escaping her white lips as she rolled over in the dust.

When Fedora came to her senses she was lying on some turf by the wayside, her hair wet with the water with which she had been plentifully besprinkled; at a little distance sat baby in her carriage, contentedly biting a crust held to her lips by a ragged, barefooted urchin, who had to stand on tip-toes to reach her; and kneeling beside baby's mother, with an infant of her own seated astride on her hip, was a shabby, sunburned young woman, who surveyed Fedora with curiosity and compassion.

"Better?" she asked. "A pretty turn you give me when you went down like a dead thing! Was the heat as did it?"

"Yes, I am better," said Fedora, trying to sit up, and writhing as she saw her dar-

ling's chubby pink fist seized in the grubby paws of the ragged urchin who was feeding her.

"Hide still a little longer," advised the woman, "it's fine and shady here, and my Tommy's a rare good hand at keeping a little 'un amused. My eye, she's a beauty, she is!" and the speaker nodded at Fedora's baby, "but fine feathers make fine birds, don't they? Anybody could see she's a lady's child, Your mistress?"

"She is mine, my very own!" exclaimed the mother, vehemently. "My little Rita, the only treasure I have!"

And with much difficulty, for her head was still dizzy, Fedora raised herself and took baby into her arms.

The woman surveyed her in silence till the color began to return to her cheeks, then felt justified in renewing her catechizing:

"You'll be glad to get home and lie down a bit, won't ye? Have ye far to go?"

"To Portsmouth," said Fedora, with a sigh.

"To Portsmouth!" was repeated, incredulously, "and afoot! Nonsense; you can't do it. Tramping so far is hard lines for the likes of me, and I've repented me a'ready that ever I started; but for you it's madness. Where's your husband?"

"He died two months after our marriage, and the only real friend I have in the world—the only one who would protect baby—is at Portsmouth. Don't discourage me, I must go to him! What will become of baby if I do not?"

"Poor soul, don't fret like that!" exclaimed the woman, "though maybe a good cry will clear your head and set ye on your feet again. Cheer up; I'm bound for Portsmouth too. You're not the only one that's up to your head in trouble. Look at me, 'Ria Marks—that's my name. We was doing fairly well out Spitalfield way—'tother side of London ye know—

Jack with his barrer, and me with a bit of wassum—when an old mate of his comes home from Australia, and nothing would do but Jack must go with him everywhere. Then Jack used to come back the worse for liquor, and I scolded and we fought, for I've got plenty of spirit, though you mayn't think it to look at me, till one night he gave me a crack that knocked me down, and the neighbors said I was dead and Jack believed 'em, and—I ain't seen him since."

"Poor wifel!" murmured Fedora, who heard the husky voice falter.

"But I know where he is. He listed in a regiment that's just ordered abroad, and the ship sails from the Harbor this day week. I wasn't a going to let him start without seeing Tommy and little Polly—poor chap! He was always so took up with his children, and as good a husband as ever lived when he kept from the drink, that he was!"

"What will you do when your husband is gone?" asked Fedora.

"Get back to London and make a living for the little 'uns somehow. While they're small they don't want much. But you're as white as white can be; is it with the hunger?" because—

But Fedora stopped the hand that was unknitting a red handkerchief, filled with broken victuals bestowed on little Tommy at a house where he had begged a drink of water, and assured her generous companion she wanted nothing but rest.

"Then lie down here and get a good sleep, and Tommy and me will mind the baby. She sha'n't come to no harm, I promise you."

But while Fedora was hesitating whether to accept this offer or not, a wagon came in sight, half-filled with straw, and driven by a simple-looking lad, who was going to a farm some ten miles farther along the road to fetch some calves.

With very little parleying he consented to take up the whole party.

A bed was made in the straw for Fedora, and her child laid beside her; but ere she was allowed to sleep she found her new friend bending over her.

"Are you quite certain that you've told me true? Do you know, I'm terrible afeared you've stole this pretty baby from her mother. She can't be yours, you're such a young thing yourself; and it's a dreadful cruel trick to rob a woman of her child. Now, do be a good girl, and tell the truth about it."

"Rita is mine—I assure you she is mine!" was the earnest reply. "I know I was very young and foolish when I was induced to marry, but I am older now, and it is to save my child from my own miserable fate that I am carrying her away."

After this explanation Fedora was allowed to lie still, and the steady jog-trot of the lumbering farm-horse soon lulled her into a refreshing slumber.

When she awoke it was morning. Long hours ago the wagon had been drawn into a farm-yard, the horses had been stabled and the wagoner was snoring beside them, till roused to commence his return journey.

Warned by experience that it would be advisable to depart before the farmer discovered that there were vagrants on his premises, 'Ria Marks assisted Fedora to descend from her perch, and together they turned their faces towards the sea.

But as soon as the chimneys of a village became visible 'Ria halted.

"We'd better part company here; I have got to earn my breakfast, so I'll hang behind a bit till you are half a mile or so ahead."

"Earn your breakfast?"

"Yes; I'm going to sing for it. Jack used to like to hear me tuning up when I was about my work. There ain't much tune left in my voice now, but when folks hears me and sees these two little children, they

mostly tosses me a copper or two or give Tommy some victuals."

"Don't leave me!" said Fedora, who clung to the protection of a creature scarcely less helpless than herself. "Don't leave me! I am not without money, thank Heaven! and we will go to Portsmouth together."

This resolve resulted in a halt being made at the cottage of an old woman, and R. Marks paying a visit to the village emporium; while Fedora plunged her kicking, crowing baby into a bath, and fed her hostess to subject Tommy and Polly to the same process.

R. Marks seemed to lose her haggard looks and defiant manner when her rage and her children's had been cast off and replaced with decent, homely garments; and she confessed, with a sob, that she had wondered whether Jack would recognize in such wretched outcasts the neat wife and well-cared-for little ones he had left.

In the covered van of one of the country carriers the rest of the journey was made—Fedora growing more and more anxious and thoughtful as she drew nearer to her destination.

While R. Marks made the best of her way to the dock where the troop-ship was lying, the young widow, leaving baby's carriage in the care of the carrier, chartered a cab, and, driving to a well-known hotel, requested an interview with Captain Edward Hallistoun.

How painfully her heart throbbed while she waited his coming! It was three years since she, then a happy girl of seventeen, had last seen him in Switzerland. How many sorrowful hours she had spent since then!

He must be married, for the paragraph in a local paper that told her where he could be found also conveyed the tidings that Mrs. Hallistoun had accompanied him to Portsmouth. He was married—she a widow!

But the door of the room into which she had been shown flew open, and Edward Hallistoun stood before her; more bronzed and grave, but also handsomer than the image of him she had secretly cherished.

And now baby Rita embarrassed her mother by falling in love with this stately sea-captain at first sight.

The little shy child, who could rarely be induced to go to a stranger, held out her arms to him, and clung about his neck, and laid her soft cheek against his, refusing to be taken away from him.

"She is pleading her own cause," murmured Fedora. "She is saying to you, in her baby language, 'Protect me; I have no other friend who can do so!'"

"Have you repented, then, that you sent me away from you?" he asked, agitatedly.

"I never sent you away!" Fedora protested, growing pale and red by turns. "You left Lucerne suddenly!"

"Not till you had returned to me my letter entreating you to be mine, with a stiffly-written announcement that you had been for some months past engaged to your cousin."

"I never saw that letter—I never wrote that announcement! My guardian"—and now Fedora hung her head and her cheeks became scarlet. "Mr. Bewleigh, told me that I had driven you away, disgusted at my too ready acceptance of your attentions. It was not till months afterwards that I was induced to marry poor Charlie!"

"You loved him?" queried the captain, jealously.

"As a brother; always; but it was my guardian and his sister who arranged the affair."

"What were their motives?"

Again Fedora's face flushed.

"I did not know then; I do now. They were aware that he was dying; they induced him to will all he had to me, so that it would become Mr. Bewleigh's without a restriction of any kind, if I would consent to the marriage he is urging upon me. I have refused firmly, repeatedly, but he will not hear my refusals. With the help of his sister, whom I dread almost as much as I dread him, he means to bend me to his will; and the other night, when I said 'No,' again and again, he threatened to use his power as my guardian, and separate me from my baby. To prevent this I fled; to save her and myself I came to you. I know that you are true and generous and brave, and I have not another friend in the world, for they have never let me make any."

"My poor little Fedora!" and Captain Hallistoun put his disengaged arm around her and drew her to his heart. "It must have been our good angel that inspired you to come to me."

But she struggled out of his embrace, crying, tearfully:

"Have I done wrong in coming? Will your wife misunderstand my motives, and bid you send me away?"

"My mother you mean. I hope I am too honorable to have wedded one woman while my affections were given to another. The dear old lady is in the next room. Let me take you to her, and she shall advise us what to do."

"But if my guardian should follow me here? I shall not be of age for another year."

This was a question that had to be solved quickly, for Captain Hallistoun was the commander of the ship in which Jack Marks was to sail for India in a couple of days.

He did not go, however; a substitute was found for him, and the Marks family returned to London, blessing Fedora for their reunion, and the substantial assistance that has enabled them to begin the world again.

When Mr. Bewleigh succeeded in trac-

ing the ward whose property he had intended appropriating, he came too late. She had married Edward Hallistoun, and sailed away with him and baby Rita, a happy wife at last.

Her furious guardian uttered violent threats, but he had been too prudent, or too well aware that his conduct will not bear the light, to put them into execution.

THE ADVANTAGES OF POVERTY.—An encouraging and instructive feature of biography is that which tells of men who have turned to advantage ill health and physical suffering.

It was unstable blood that drove Cowper from the law to poetry.

Schiller's life for fifteen years was a continuous and an heroic struggle against an ailment from which no relief could be hoped except by death; yet he has put it on record that but for this dread presence of a painful death he might never have produced those masterpieces which have placed him in the front rank of those writers who have the world for their country and all men for their admirers.

A similar advantage was won from disadvantage by that brilliant statesman the Earl of Chatham.

From infancy he was a martyr to hereditary gout. This circumstance led him into retirement, and fostered in him those habits of regularity, abstinence, and study which laid the foundation of his fame.

Poverty will be regarded by most men as a disadvantage, though we have the word of Lord Eldon—and that word the outcome of his personal experience—that in order to acquire fame and riches a man must begin life without a shilling.

Kenyon went even so far as to declare that a rich man in order to succeed must begin by spending his own fortune, must marry, and must spend the fortune of his wife.

This is, of course, an heroic remedy which no one would adopt when clothed and in his right mind.

Nor does it strike one as the mark of a high-minded man to lay the foundation of success in the misery and privation of a woman, however often Erskine may be cited as having declared that he would have failed had he not felt his wife and children twitching at his gown.

If the history of failures is ever written, it will be found that the chief regret of those who furnish material for the bulky volumes is that they omitted to take that tide in the affairs of men which leads to fortune.

Many men have, however, mistaken for the tide a ripple on the surface of their lives.

A certain briefless barrister thought that he had missed the tide when he was refused a commissionership in bankruptcy.

When that same lawyer became Lord Eldon, Lord Chancellor Thurlow, who had refused him the post, said:

"Jack, I withheld it as a favor to you. I saw your ability, but recognized that you were indolent, and that only want could make you industrious."

When Harvey, the discoverer of the circulation of the blood, was forbidden by the governor of Dover to embark for Padua, he too thought that he had missed the tide.

The ship went down with all hands, and Harvey lived to see an advantage spring from a disadvantage, while the world was a gainer in one of the most important additions to medical knowledge.

SLEEP.—Sleep is a necessity of our nature—a state required for the rest and repair of functions, both bodily and mental, which are incapable of being repaired in any other way. Sleep fulfils, and is intended to fulfil, the great office of our nature. The sleep even of plants is not merely a poetic, but a scientific appropriation.

The experiments of several eminent physicians furnish evidence that sleep depends on a lessened quantity and force of blood in the brain, and especially in the arterial part of the cerebral circulation. Lord Brougham considered dreams an incidental, not a constant part of sleep—a sort of fringe edging its borders.

The intellectual part of our nature is exhausted by its continued exercise, as the bodily organs require intermittent periods of repose and rest. Sleep protracted beyond the need of repair, and encroaching habitually upon the hours of waking action, impairs more or less the functions of the brain, and with them all the vital powers. The sleep of infancy, and that of old age, do not come under this category of excess.

But, though we cannot measure the amount of sleep by hours, or the consciousness of the sleeper, there is much real difference of the necessary degree in relation to the great function of repair. One hour in one case may comprise as much of what is true sleep, as two or many hours in another. The Duke of Wellington, on the field of Salamanca, when the two armies were closely pressing to the conflict, slept soundly.

In comparing the literary merits of Dickens and Thackeray, an after-dinner orator in London said: "It's the wonderful insight into human nature that Dickens gets the pull over Thackeray; but, on the other hand, it's in the brilliant shafts of satire, together with a keen sense of humor, that Thackeray gets the pull over Dickens. It's just this: Dickens is a humorist and Thackeray is a satirist. But, after all, it's absurd to instigate any comparison between Dickens and Thackeray."

AT HOME AND ABROAD.

Mrs. Mark Hopkins of Nob Hill, San Francisco, and Great Barrington, Mass., is worth \$30,000,000. Miss Elizabeth Garrett inherited one-third of John W. Garrett's \$37,000,000. Mme. Barrata, now at Newport, has nearly \$5,000,000 to keep the wolf from the door. She is young, pretty and a widow, and her condition is a reproach to American enterprise.

The street cars at Lyons, in France, are hereafter to be operated by a system of compressed air, which has been found to work satisfactorily in Nantes and other French cities. The cars are said to run smoothly and with but little noise, while the machinery is simple and does not require a skilled mechanic to superintend it. The cost is less than with horses, steam or electricity.

The English stand alone as regards the lateness of the hour at which they dine, and foreigners can hardly understand this preference for so late an hour for eating the chief meal of the day. Her majesty the queen sets a example by dining at 9 o'clock, the leading nobility follow it by dining at 8:30; 8 o'clock, however, is a very general hour in London at which to dine, and very few people with any claim to be considered fashionable, dine earlier, except those who wish to adhere to the early hours of their younger days and insist upon dining at 7:30. At continental courts, on the contrary, the fashionable dinner hour is not later than six, and at some courts earlier in the summer months.

A gentleman went to the stamp window of the post-office in a neighboring city, and called for 100 one-cent stamps, tendering in payment 100 one-cent pieces. "Those are not legal tender in any such amount," growled the stamp clerk; "I refuse to accept them." "You do, eh?" answered the gentleman. "Well, give me one stamp," at the same time shoving out a cent. The stamp was forthcoming. "Now give me a stamp," he got it. "Another stamp," "Now another." "See here," said the clerk, "how many stamps do you want? You are keeping twenty people waiting." "Oh, I always keep within the law," responded the gentleman. "Another stamp, please. Cents are not legal tender in large amounts. Another stamp." And he shoved out his cents and purchased stamps, one at a time, till he got his hundred. But the clerk was cured. Cents are legal tender at his window in barrel lots.

Some interesting statistics of the artificial tooth trade of the world have been published. A great proportion of the artificial teeth which are used in Europe and Asia, comes from the United States, whence, it appears, about 5,000,000 teeth are annually exported. The general color of the teeth which are used in various countries differs greatly. Canada takes the whitest; Great Britain and France demand pearly teeth; the teeth for South America are yellow; those for China are almost black; for artificial teeth must, of course, match the natural ones. The Chinese are extensive customers. Even in the inland towns of the Celestial Empire, where communication with civilization is difficult, the traveler seldom sees a native of any social position whose teeth are not, apparently, regular and sound. This is because the dentist in China is in universal demand. Every one who can pay for his services avails himself of them.

Statistics gathered by the government show that in India tigers every year cause the death of nearly two thousand human beings, and destroy about twenty thousand cattle. "The man-eating tiger, whose victim is more frequently a woman or a child, is a beast of peculiar habits; usually an aged tiger, no longer able to catch the deer or antelope, and, perhaps with his teeth half-worn out, declining conflict with the boar or the buffalo. He therefore lies in wait amid the long grass by the path where girls and old women return from drawing water at the stream or tank, or are passing from one hamlet to another; and if the last one happens to lag behind alone, stopping to adjust her dress, or stooping to pick a thorn out of her foot, the tiger leaps forth, seizes her and carries her off, to feast on her mangled flesh. It is seldom that this sneaking and really cowardly savage beast will attack a man who carries anything like a weapon, unless the man has provoked the combat."

The London Telegraph says: "A young physician, Dr. Vario, who has already been successful in taking tattoo marks from the skins of several civilized savages, has been induced to test the efficacy of the famous physician, M. Brown-Sequard's 'Life Mixture.' He posted together portions of the fish-bones of rabbits and guinea-pigs; dissected them with water, and injected the compound thus obtained into the bodies of three paupers, aged respectively 54, 56, and 68. The men had never heard of M. Brown-Sequard's solution, and were merely told that they were to be injected with strengthening fluid. We have Dr. Vario's word for it that his three patients, who, before being subjected to the wonderful remedy, were weak, worn, emaciated, and melancholy, suddenly became strong, fresh, and cheerful; took new views of life, and altogether felt as if they had received a new lease of existence." There are plenty who would but too gladly believe that this was possible.

R. R. R.

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Always in the house. Its use will prove beneficial on all occasions of pain or sickness. There is nothing in the world that will stop pain or arrest the progress of disease as quick as the Ready Relief. Travelers should always carry a bottle of RADWAY'S READY RELIEF with them. A few drops in water will prevent sickness or pains from change of water. It is better than French Brandy or Bitters as a stimulant.

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In Its Various Forms,
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The application of the Ready Relief to the part or parts where the pain or difficulty exists will afford instant ease and comfort.

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Perfectly tasteless, elegantly coated with sweet gum, purge, regulate, purify, cleanse and strengthen. DR. RADWAY'S PILLS for the cure of all disorders of the stomach, liver, bowels, kidneys, bladder, nervous diseases, loss of appetite, headache, constipation, indigestion, dyspepsia, biliousness, fever, inflammation of the bowels, piles, and all derangements of the internal viscera. Purely vegetable, containing no mercury, minerals, or deleterious drugs.

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Will be accomplished by taking Radway's Pills. By so doing

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Observe the following symptoms resulting from diseases of the digestive organs: Constipation, inward piles, fullness of blood in the head, acidity of the stomach, nausea, heartburn, disgust of food, fullness of weight in the stomach, sour eructations, sinking or fluttering of the heart, churning or suffocating sensations when in a lying posture, dimness of vision, dots or webs before the sight, fever and dull pain in the head, deficiency of perspiration, yellowness of the skin and eyes, pain in the side, chest, limbs, and sudden flashes of heat, burning in the flesh.

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Our Young Folks.

FINDING HIS LEVEL.

BY LUCY FARMER.

NOW, young Sulky, don't stand there! Come here when I call you; do you hear me?"

This polite order was addressed to a very unhappy youth, who, without a hat, his hands in his pockets, and a very untidy head of hair, was standing against the wall of the playground.

He was a rather miserable lad, but very quiet, and he often got teased and bullied by the other boys in the school. His name was Adams.

The boy who had called him was named Dalton, and he was a very great man—the "cock" of the school!

He was the envy and admiration of many boys, for he had a slight down on his upper lip which he called his "moustache," and which he very carefully pulled and pounded to make the hair sprout; but it did not come very quickly for all his trouble.

"Come here, young Sulky!" he cried again.

Then Adams came to where the great man stood inside the schoolroom near the desk.

It was a half holiday.

"Look here," said Dalton, "I am going out this afternoon, and I have some Latin and Greek exercises to write out. You must do them for me."

"Oh, Dalton, I can't; I want to go to the fields and see the game," said poor Sulky. "Besides, they are too hard for me."

"You miserable little muff! Don't talk to me! Sit down here and do my exercises, or I will give you a thrashing. Sit down!"

All the other boys were going out, and some of them said it was "a shame"; but the cock of the school did as he pleased.

So poor young "Sulky," as he was sometimes called, had to stay indoors for two hours and do the exercises.

But he was a clever lad, and though he was not so advanced in his class as were Dalton and many others, he had better brains; and he quickly managed the exercises.

Then he went out—it was only four o'clock—and watched the game. As he was seated on the grass someone came behind him and hit him, knocking off his cap.

Sulky turned round and saw Dalton, who said—

"Did I not tell you to do my exercises?"

"Yes, and they are done."

"What? In a couple of hours?—those Greek ones?"

"Yes, all of them. Why did you hit me?"

"Because I thought you hadn't done them. All right, I'll forgive you."

Adams thought that the forgiveness ought to come from him, but he did not say so.

However, he had a pleasant afternoon, and went home with the other boys. He did his lessons quickly, and then went to bed.

Next day Dalton took up his exercises with his name signed to them, and was praised by his class master for doing them so well.

"You will gain the prize, Dalton," he said, "if you continue in this way. They are more carefully done than usual, but there are still several errors."

He pointed out the mistakes, and Dalton saw them. He had not looked over young Sulky's work at all, else he might perhaps have detected them, or some of them. But he was quite pleased, and actually began to imagine he had done the exercises himself.

Adams did not come off quite so well in his class, but his master knew he was very clever and rather shy. So he did all he could for him, and Sulky did not get punished.

The master had seen him at work in the afternoon, and thinking that the lad was trying to learn, he forgave him his bad lessons.

So Dalton's unkindness did not do young "Sulky" much harm.

But when other big boys found that their companion Dalton had his lessons done so well, they also made "young Sulky" write out for them.

This was very unfair, and Adams did not like it. So he was beaten and pinched and coaxed until he did the lessons while others played.

One day when he was doing some work for Jones, a big boy, his master came up and looked over his shoulder.

"Hard at work, Adams, I see, eh?" he said kindly.

"Yes, sir," replied Adams, rather guiltily.

"I wonder that you do not do better in your class," continued Mr. Harper. "Your lessons are not quite so good as they used to be. You must pay more attention, and then you need not work in play hours."

Poor Adams said nothing. He hung his head, for he could not tell Mr. Harper that doing other boys' exercises took up so much of his time and tired him so much that he could not pay attention to his own lessons.

But he learned a great deal by doing those exercises and lessons.

Though Adams said nothing to his mas-

ter, he said a great deal to himself. He was, as we know, shy and reserved, and very plodding.

He did not like fighting, though he was no coward, as some boys once found when they were teasing a poor child who had only just come to the school.

This young lad was rescued by Adams, who offered to fight both the bullying boys.

So the days passed. Dalton did very well apparently in his class, but all his real hard, troublesome work was done by Adams.

Of course the "cock of the school" was in the first class, and had to work; but as he was not going up for any grand examinations at college or for the army he did not trouble himself.

His father, he said, "intended him for a country gentleman," and "he did not need to slave for his bread!"

But, unfortunately, his father lost a great deal of money in speculations, and before the end of the term he wrote to his son that he must try to take the big Scholarship, and have it for college, whither he must go and study for a profession! His father said he must do something for himself, and really work now.

This was very unfortunate for Dalton. Many were sorry for him, and his class master pitied and encouraged him.

"Never mind!" he said, "you will have an excellent chance of the Scholarship, for one of you lads must have it, and unless Jones or Saville beats you, you will take it."

"I think I can manage them, sir," said the "cock." "Thank you very much for your kindness."

Any boy in the school had a chance of gaining the prize.

Two hundred and fifty dollars a year for three years seemed to be, and really is, a great deal of money.

But Jones, Saville and Dalton now found how silly they had been in not thoroughly learning their lessons.

It did not so much matter for Saville and Jones; they could try again at another prize the following year; but the "cock of the school" was too old, and unless he got in this year he could not get in at all!

He really worked then, and did his own lessons; nearly always. Sometimes he got Adams to write his composition out, and Adams made mistakes, but learned to correct them.

Thus the time for sending in the names for the examination for the Scholarship came, and to everyone's great surprise "young Sulky" sent in his.

"Why, Sulky, you will never pass," said his friends.

"I'll try," said Adams. "I have a chance."

"You a chance, you shrimp!" cried Jones. "Why, what chance have you with Saville and me and the 'cock? You silly, go and learn your grammar!"

Adams' master, however, was delighted. If the lad did pass, he, the master, would be praised.

So he encouraged him and "coached" him. Adams worked hard and did his work very well. He was very clever; had picked up a great deal; and was not afraid then.

The day came, and the boys went up. There were four candidates, and in course of the examination came, as it happened, some of the rather easy Latin and Greek exercises and composition which Adams had done with so much trouble for Dalton.

Adams had looked out all the words, and had learnt all about these exercises, and he did them very easily and quite correctly. He also did the other papers well, but he did not imagine he would pass with him. Still he did his best.

When the boys went back to school again the masters asked them questions, and felt sure that Dalton had passed, because he knew the composition.

So everyone was surprised when Adams' name stood first. He had gained the prize!

The head master and all the others were pleased except Dalton's master. He was annoyed, and said, "Why, Dalton, you did that composition nearly right weeks ago!"

Dalton hung his head. He was sorry he had not done it instead of making Adams do it.

Young Sulky had paid attention to the work, and had learned all he could. He won the prize and went to college and Dalton had lost his place as "cock of the school." His comb was out!

So the work which Adams had so often grumbled at turned out the very best thing for him.

We never know what may happen if we only do our best, no matter how unpleasant the task may appear at the time.

STRANGE PATIENTS.—"Whatever is, is," says Moses in "The Vicar of Wakefield." This logic, commonly ascribed to women, appeals with peculiar force to all who have had experiences of the realities of the imagination.

We can judge of sensations only by their effect, and it is useless to say that a pain or a pleasure can be set aside as imaginary because its origin is obscure and its cause doubtful.

There is a story of a condemned criminal who died when told that he was being bled to death, though his veins had been but gently pricked with a pin, and the drops that fell upon his ear were drops of water, not of blood.

The theory that underlies this record of the power of the imagination has been con-

firmed over and over again by well-authenticated cases.

A lady called at the house of a country doctor in order to consult him as to the health of her daughter. The young lady had been treated by several medical men, none of whom, however, had succeeded in removing from her arm a wound which, she declared, gave her intense pain.

No cause could be given for the injury, and, as it obstinately declined to yield to simple treatment, the doctor began to look out for other than local symptoms.

His suspicion was aroused, and one day he took a piece of discolored matter from the arm for the purpose of minute examination.

Judge of his surprise when he discovered that the discoloration was caused by licorice or Spanish juice!

On the next visit, the doctor called the mother aside, and informed her that the wound was deliberately caused by her daughter in order to excite sympathy.

The lady declined to believe that her child was an imposter, and bade the doctor an indignant "good-day."

She returned a few weeks later, after a visit to a specialist, and apologized to the local practitioner.

Her daughter was suffering from one of those obscure mental diseases classed under the name of hysteria, and, in order to satisfy her craving for sympathy, had, time after time, pricked her arm and discolored the wound with Spanish juice.

CAGED WITH A TIGER.

BY D. K.

A LARGE traveling "wild-beast show" had just come into the English country town of Eastonleigh; and as it happened to be market-day, the proprietor expected to have plenty of customers.

But whether it was that the townspeople were too full of business that day to think of pleasure, or that they found better amusement elsewhere, the building was nothing like half full; and even the beasts themselves, seeming to feel that they had not an audience worthy of them, went through their performances with so little spirit that they were freely made fun of by the few spectators that were there.

All at once the tiger—a fine "royal Bengal," brought over from India a year before, which had been lying drowsily in one corner of its cage—sprang to its feet, and reared itself up against the bars with a roar that made the whole place echo, and the sight seers jump back as if they had been shot.

What could be the matter? Nobody could see anything to account for the beast's irritation—unless, indeed, it had taken offence at the appearance of a sturdy red-whiskered sailor, in a blue jacket and low-crowned hat, who had at that moment just strolled into the show to look about him.

The sailor looked toward the tiger's cage, eyed the terrible beast fixedly for a moment, and then, to the amazement and terror of all who saw it, went straight up to the monster (which uttered another and a louder roar as he approached), and thrusting his arm between the bars, clapped the tiger on the head as coolly as if he were petting a cat, calling out as he did so—

"Hello, Billy, my old friend! how are you?"

Everyone shuddered, expecting to see the outstretched arm torn off at one snap by those tremendous jaws; but instead of that the tiger rubbed its great yellow head caressingly against Jack's brawny hand, and uttered a loud purr of satisfaction that sounded like the winding up of a clock.

The news of this wonder flew from mouth to mouth, and certainly the owner of the show had no cause to complain of a slack attendance now, for in a trice the whole place was full to over-flowing.

So, too, was the cash-taker's drawer, for many of the new-comers, in their eagerness to see what was going on, threw down silver instead of copper, and rushed in without waiting for their change.

Meanwhile the seaman, catching by the arm one of the keepers who happened to be close by, called out to him—

"Hark'ee, mate, just open Billy's cage, will yer? He's an old salpinate o' mine, and I wants to go in and have a yarn about old times with him."

The keeper looked puzzled—as well he might.

He knew how little the tiger was to be trusted, and had no wish to see this adventurous blue-jacket gobbled up before his very eyes.

Moreover, if he were to open the cage at all, it would be no easy matter to let the sailor in without at the same time letting the tiger out; and where would they all be then?

"D'y'e really mean it?" asked he doubtfully.

"Mean it? O' course I mean it, you lubber!" cried Jack indignantly. "Come, look sharp! Don't you see he knows me again?"

The tiger gave another roar, as if he meant to say, "Yes, to be sure I do;" and the keeper only half-re-assured, opened the cage with one hand, while he held all ready in the other the stout iron bar with which he was accustomed to keep order among his grim pupils whenever they seemed to misbehave.

As the grating slid back, the crowd (which had pressed right up to the cage) slid back too with considerable haste, in case the tiger should take it into his head to make a dash through the opening, and

snap up one or two of them by way of a light lunch.

But "Billy" was far too much occupied with his friend the sailor to take any notice of them.

Round and round the man he went a dozen times at least, rubbing his broad striped sides against him most affectionately; and then, rearing up on his hind feet, planted his two fore paws upon Jack's sturdy shoulders, while the sailor, taking off his low-crowned hat, clapped it on the monster's head.

Such a queer figure did the tiger make with this trim little shiny hat cocked jauntily on one side of his huge flat skull that the whole throng of lookers-on burst into a roar of laughter.

But all this was nothing to what was coming.

"Billy," said the blue-jacket putting back the hat upon his own head, "let's see if you remember what I taught yer. Jump!"

He stretched out his right arm to its full length as he spoke, and with one bound the tiger leaped right over it, lightly as a feather, in spite of its huge size.

"Now back again, mate!" cried the sailor, and back went the obedient monster over the leap, as readily as a performing dog.

"Well, I'm a Dutchman if I could make him do better than that myself," said the admiring keeper. "Fact, I don't b'lieve I could manage it half so well. How did you ever larn him all them tricks, matey?"

"It was I that had the feeding of him aboard ship," answered the sailor, with a grin; "and he ain't forgot it, neither—have yer, Billy, my boy?"

The tiger replied with a friendly growl, as much as to say, "Not a bit of it."

"Now, Billy," shouted the seaman, slapping his hands sharply together, "sit down!"

Instantly the mighty beast lay crouching like a cat on the floor of the cage; and then the sailor sat down beside it, with his back propped against its gaunt muscular body, and one hand laid caressingly upon the terrible fore paw that could have knocked out his brains with one pat.

Then Jack struck up "Rule Britannia," and the tiger beat time on the floor with his paws, with a force that made the whole cage tremble; and as the sailor rolled out with the full power of his voice,

"Britons never, never, never, shall be slaves,"

"Billy" joined in the chorus with such a roar that it set all the windows rattling.

But just as the seaman was proceeding to exhibit some more of his striped comrade's accomplishments, and the delight of the watching crowd was at its highest, Jack happened to catch a glimpse of the church clock through the nearest window.

"Hello!" cried he, starting up; "it's later than I thought; and if I'm goin' to catch the halfpenny train to Portsmouth I haven't got much time to spare. Good-bye, Billy, my hearty! the best of friends must part, you know."

But apparently the tiger was not of the same opinion, for he evidently had no intention of parting with his friend just yet.

When the sailor rose to go the beast kept so close to him that the keeper, who stood ready to open the grate, was forced to snout it again, for fear of letting out the brute as well as the man.

Three times did Jack attempt to slip out, and three times did the tiger catch him gently by the jacket with its enormous teeth, and draw him quietly back again.

"Well, this is a queer fix to be in!" cried the seaman, half vexed and half laughing. "I came for a friendly call, but I didn't bargain for being axed to stay altogether!"

The keeper, however, began to look grave, for he saw that the tiger was getting angry, and that a few minutes more might cost the reckless sailor his life.

But just then a bright idea struck him. Fetching a large piece of raw meat, he flung it into the inner cage, which formed a kind of back-room to the larger one.

The tiger pounced upon it at once, and instantly the wary keeper closed the inner door upon him, making him secure, while friend Jack, seeing the coast clear, lost no time in making good his escape.

PUT THE CHILDREN TO BED.—Not with a reproof for any of that day's sins of omission or commission. Take any time but bed time for that.

If you ever heard a little creature sighing or sobbing in its sleep you could never do this. Seal their closing eyelids with a kiss and a blessing.

The time will come, all too soon, when they will lay their heads upon their pillows lacking both.

Let them then at least have this sweet memory of a happy childhood, of which no future sorrows or troubles can rob them.

Give them their rosy youth. Nor need this involve wild license. The judicious parent will not so mistake our meaning.

If you have ever met the man or the woman whose eyes have suddenly filled when a little child has crept trustingly to its mother's breast, you may have seen one in whose childhood's home Dignity and Severity stood where Love and Pity should have been. Too much indulgence has ruined thousands of children; too much love, not one.

A MEMORY.

BY ALEXANDER GRANT.

When thy burdened spirit falls,
Worn with grief and weary days,
And the purple distance sails
In the fading saffron haze,

Drop thy fringed lids, nor sigh,
Should the gathering tears o'erflow;
Sing again the song that I
Sang to thee, long, long ago,

Let thy snowy fingers stray
In among the ivory keys,
While the twilight sinks to gray,
And upswells the sweet night-breeze—

They will find the dear old strain,
Woo'd from out the trembling strings;
They will find it, not in vain,
If thy spirit with them sings!

And though day be overcast,
Starlight glimmers on the sea,
While through darkness, dawn, at last,
Brighter days for you and me!

DISORDERS OF SPEECH.

The field of medical science, studded as it is with strange sights, exhibits nothing more curious than certain disorders of speech found in connection with brain diseases.

We refer to cases where there is almost unimpaired capacity for forming ideas, and also of pronouncing words, but with a strange inability to fit the word to the idea.

To medical authorities this peculiarity is known as Aphasia, and it presents many features of great interest.

Thus, a conversation like the following may be carried on with an aphasic patient.

Holding up a pen, the questioner asks, "What is this?"

The eyes of the patient shows intelligence, his lips move spasmodically, but the required word will not come.

"Is it a sword?" asks the questioner.

The patient makes a gesture of impatience and contempt, clearly replying that the question is ridiculously wide of the mark.

"Is it a pencil?" asks the questioner again.

The patient still shakes his head, but his look implies that his guess is much nearer the truth than the former one.

"Is it a pen?" is then asked.

"Yes—a pen," answers the patient readily and with evident relief.

A moment afterwards the questioner again holds up the same object and demands its name; but the patient is dumb as at first.

He has just pronounced the word "pen;" his whole demeanor shows clearly that he understands what it is, but by some inscrutable impediment he is hindered from connecting the idea with the word.

Some link has dropped out of the mysterious chain which connects the thought formed in the brain with its articulate expression in speech.

Sometimes the tendency of the aphasic patient is to substitute for the correct word others resembling them either in sense or sound.

"Give me my little chapel," said an aphasic patient once, when demanding the prayer book.

"Are those the pipes for laying on the light?" was the mode of another's inquiry about the gas.

"My friend has become a Plymouth brother," was what an aphasic once intended to say. What he did say was: "My friend has become a Yarmouth Blos-ter!"

In the two former cases the analogy in sense, in the last, the similarity in sound, explains the curious confusion.

An aphasic patient is sometimes in the position of a talking parrot, and possesses some half-dozen phrases which he employs inaccurately, and perhaps indifferently. To every question he may answer: "Good morning," "Quite ready," "Can't afford it," "List complete"—just as the parrot says "Pretty Pili."

Sometimes he is limited to a few monosyllables, such as "Yes," "No," "Nurse," yet repeats the alphabet quite correctly, and may even say the Lord's Prayer without a slip.

The explanation of this curious anomaly is that these last have become from long usage perfectly automatic, and are therefore readily repeated without conscious effort.

Sometimes an aphasic who has not spoken an articulate word for weeks will cry out quite intelligibly, under the influence of fear or surprise, just as an hysterical paralytic who had not moved a limb for many a day has been known to leap out of bed on hearing a cry of "Fire!"

Occasionally, a patient who has lost all power of voluntary conversation can nevertheless read fluently and correctly from printed matter.

The case is on record of an aphasic who kept a slate on which he wrote down all common words and phrases which he was likely to need.

When addressed, he referred to his slate, and if the vocabulary necessary for giving a correct answer was found written there, he replied readily and correctly, but was totally incapable of employing a single word which was not included upon his list.

Here the explanation seemed to be that the sense of sight helped the nervous impulses which were too weak to originate speech without this extraneous aid.

A parallel to this curious condition is afforded by some patients who, on being asked to put out their tongue, are unable to do so, although their efforts show that they understand perfectly what is wanted.

But if the doctor now puts out his tongue and repeats his command, they obey with perfect ease and readiness. Thus the language of gesture gives the stimulus which articulate speech has lost the power of affording.

Writing is usually more or less interfered with in the aphasic patient, and generally the degree of interference bears more proportion to the damage to speech.

The aphasic may have lost entirely the power of writing, and make nothing but unmeaning strokes.

He may form letters correctly, but be unable to group them into words. He may write down correctly his name and his residence; but there his capacity may end.

He may write short monosyllables, but fail in attempting longer words. He may write single words correctly, but be unable to group them into sentences.

Lastly, he may copy long passages from print with perfect correctness, and yet be totally unable to write a single word if the printed matter be withdrawn.

A patient in this last condition may spell and pronounce correctly, yet be incapable of writing a single letter unless written or printed matter be placed before him, when he copies with ease and accuracy.

Enough has been said to show the variety of symptoms present in aphasia and their truly marvellous character.

The human body, like a complex and delicate instrument out of tune, may give rise to strange phenomena under the disturbing influence of disease, but none stranger or more impressive than those under consideration.

In some of these cases it has been found possible to teach the use of language again, and the man of forty or fifty goes back to his elementary spelling book and laboriously reacquires the language which he learnt at his mother's knee.

Brains of Gold.

Ill gotten goods seldom prosper.

Only so much do I know as I have lived.

It is good to begin well, but better to end well.

Inconstancy is the attendant of a weak mind.

In vain he craves advice that will not follow it.

It costs more to revenge injuries than to bear them.

That man is the richest whose pleasures are cheapest.

It is less painful to learn in youth than to be ignorant in age.

He that is discontented in one place will seldom be happy in another.

Cultivate not only the cornfields of your mind but the pleasure grounds also.

Every man complains of his memory, but no man complains of his judgment.

Into the composition of every happiness enters the thought of having deserved it.

If your mind is not upon your work, you cannot expect to accomplish it with any degree of satisfaction to others or credit to yourself.

Habits of neatness are partly natural and partly acquired. It should be the aim of every father and mother to teach neatness in their children and insist upon it.

Femininities.

Artificial honey—Kisses sent by mail.

The Queen of Siam wears one and one-half inch boots.

Ripe tomatoes will remove ink-stains from white cloth.

The maiden's lover is always a man after her own heart.

Women are too imaginative and sensitive to have much logic.

Sailor maidens are now wearing a scarf-pin in the shape of a Neptune's trident.

What is it that ladies are always getting which they do not want?—Why, getting old!

Gasket: "Yes, sir, I'm a self-made man."

Smothered voice: "Then you cheated yourself."

Camphor is offensive to mice, and will keep them away from where it is scattered about.

The School of Medicine of Boston University has graduated 478 physicians. Nearly one-half of these are women.

True religion is the poetry of the heart; it has enchantments useful to our manners; it gives us both happiness and virtue.

The Empress of Austria has been drowning her great grief in the study of Greek, in which she has made admirable progress.

The beautiful polish of which copper is susceptible may be preserved by varnishing with shellac while the metal is warm and quite free from grease.

Half the sorrows of women would be averted if they could repress the speech they know to be useless,—nay, the speech they have resolved not to make.

The Duchess of Fife, the recently married daughter of the Prince of Wales, can't squeeze her foot into anything less than a 3½ shoe. More frequently it is a full-fledged 4.

The oldest banker in the country is Dr. Powers, senior partner in the bank of Dr. Powers & Sons, Lansingburg, N. Y. She is 90 years old, and shrewd enough to be a thousand.

The ex-Empress Eugenie is about 70 years of age, but those who have seen her recently say that there is still the old fascination in her manner, and the same girlish grace about her slender figure.

Mrs. Passeur, to her maid: "How is the weather to-day, Marie?" Maid: "Fresh and windy, madam."

"Very well; you will please put a healthy flush on my cheeks this morning. I am going out."

A woman's proper figure on the modern plan is said by the English authorities to be of 23 inches about the waist and 36 about the bust. There is a Mrs. McDonald in England, though, who has a waist of 15 and a bust of 38.

"No, Mr. Jones, I cannot be your wife."

"But you'll be a sister to me. Promise me that."

"It is unnecessary. Your brother proposed to me last week and I promised to be his sister. I have been your sister for a week."

Princess Louise's evening gloves are all kid, twelve buttons, and her morning gloves are eight-button suede. Kid gloves are always worn by the women of the royal family, while the other women of the court wear suede.

English society is making an attempt to introduce a new dance, on this plan: Four paces are made as though a march were intended, and then each gentleman embraces his lady and waltzes with her for four bars, then resuming pading. Repeat.

Ada: "So you have been to see your husband's folks, have you, Lulu? And how did you like his mother?" Lulu: "Oh! ever so much, Ada; she made me feel so much at home. Why, in less than 24 hours after I arrived there she had me in the kitchen wiping dishes."

Three sisters, all under 15 years of age, in Missouri, weigh together 365 pounds. Lydia, 13 years old, is the heaviest, tipping the beam at 374 pounds. Two of the trio have six fingers on each hand and the same number of toes on each foot. Their parents are of ordinary size.

The cleanest and most perfectly polished hardwood floors have no water used on them. They are simply rubbed every morning with a large flannel cloth which is occasionally dipped in paraffin-oil. The floor is rubbed with the grain of the wood, not across it. This is better than waxing.

Mrs. Maria M. Dean is a homeopathic physician who took an office in Helena, Montana, three years ago. Her income last year was in the neighborhood of \$12,000. She is a graduate of Wisconsin University and from a Boston medical school, and also studied medicine in Berlin. She is 30 years old.

A young woman was observed in a street car the other day on her way to a circulating library after having devoured three novels—"A Lost Wife," "A Jealous Husband" and "Were They Married?"—a combination, judging from the titles, calculated to produce both mental and moral dyspepsia.

Bobby, who has been sitting patiently half an hour: "Mr. Boomer, I wish you would pop the question to Bella." Bella: "Robert, you naughty boy, what possessed you to make such a preposterous remark?" Bobby, sulkily: "Well, anyway, ma said if he did you'd jump at the chance, and I want to see you jump."

Mrs. Wallace, of Summerville, Ohio, was cutting up an old dress that belonged to her mother, who died a couple of years ago, when the scissors came upon something hard. Upon examination it was found to be a \$20 bill folded and sewed in a hem. Mrs. Wallace is not in the best of circumstances and the find was a very timely one.

When it is remembered that the girl who cares for her looks takes a bath every night before going to bed, washes her teeth, brushes her back hair for 15 minutes, braids it in a long braid, puts up a dozen front and back frizzes, puts cold cream on her face, glycerine and old gloves on her hands, ammonia on her chigger bites, and says her prayers, the wonder grows that girls ever go to bed at all.

Masculinities.

How much sooner it gets too dark to saw wood than it does to play lawn tennis.

Some men are born poor, others achieve poverty, and others thrust poverty upon other people.

It is sad so think how few our pleasures really are, and for the which we foolishly risk eternal good.

Sometimes men do not realize that they are lucky until years after they have had their good luck.

A Western man recently married a widow because she took such good care of her first husband's grave.

When a young man proposes and is accepted, he rings the girl's hand. If he is rejected, he wrings his own hands.

The truth about some men is never known until after they are dead, and you can't find it then upon their monuments.

You can get into a woman's good graces easier by pleasing her baby than by flattering herself. Mother pride is stronger than female vanity.

Wise father, to married son: "You are living very comfortably, I see; but are you saving any money?" Wise son, whispering: "Yes; but don't tell my wife."

Father: "What makes you so extravagant with my money?" Son: "Because I didn't think you would like to spend it yourself after working so hard for it."

Young man: "You are older than I am, and I want to ask you a question. Does a woman always mean what she says?" Old man: "Always—that is, if she's married!"

Accepted suitor: "Won't you find it awkward when you meet your other two husbands in heaven?" Interesting widow: "I don't expect to meet either of them there."

The death of William Scott, the oldest employee of Messrs. Eyre & Spottiswoode, the London publishers, is announced. His name had been on their pay-roll for 51 years.

"Ku to mo ning sha hau-to lu-to" is from a new Chinese phrase-book; but it isn't Chinese; it is English. It is the way the Chinese are taught to say "Good morning, sir; how do you do?"

Judge Hilton was a clerk in a law firm, and was picked out by A. T. Stewart as his legal adviser. Now he is estimated to possess \$25,000,000 in personality, and Stewart's widow is brought in as his debtor at her death.

"The bridesmaids wore handsome breeches, the gift of the bridegroom." Do not be shocked; the compositor could hardly have recovered from his annual picnic when he made this sad blunder about the bridal brooches.

Neighbor: "Bertie, your mother is calling you!" Bertie: "Yes'm, I know it; but I fancy she don't want me very bad." Neighbor: "She has called you seven times already." Bertie: "Yes, I know; but she hasn't called 'Albert' yet."

An amusing story is told of a young preacher in Texas, who astonished his audience by announcing as a text "St. Charles III, 7." The slip of the tongue was understood soon after when he was married to a young lady in St. Charles, La.

Dr. Grimshaw: "Don't you know, young man, that it's very injurious to blow cigarette smoke down your nose in that way?" Mr. De Addie: "Is it? I know it's very disagreeable, and I hate to do it, but all the other fellows do it, douches know!"

The well-known detection of a crime, in "Diplomacy," through the perfume of a woman's glove, was reproduced by a recent occurrence in Paris. A man who found his room robbed of all his jewelry perceived a peculiar perfume, and a few days later noticed it again when passing two well-dressed women in the street. They were arrested and found to be the thieves.

Jenkins, walking up the front garden: "What on earth?" (reads "No Admittance Except on Business")—what on earth, Mr. Parker, have you got that stuck on your front door for?" Parker: "Why, so many ornamental fellows call on my daughters they are in one another's way, and as the girls don't go off I must do something to reduce the surplus. Coming in? No? Well, take it!"

An old Roman, much to the surprise of his friends, sought to divorce his wife, with whom it was always supposed that he had lived very happily. He was blamed for taking this step, and in reply put out his foot and asked if his shoe were not new and well made. "Yes," said he, "none of you can tell where it pinches." From this incident is said to have come the old saying "where the shoe pinches."

Ferdinand Guzman, the most famous bandit in Spain, is a dwarf, who at one time kept a small store in Granada. He became angered at some action taken by the authorities and took to the mountains. He is hideously ugly in appearance and utterly unscrupulous. The romantic chivalry attributed to Spanish bandits does not apply to him at all. He has gathered about him a crew of the worst cutthroats in Europe and over them he reigns supreme.

Eben S. Allen, late President of the Green Line Street Car Corporation, New York, who hypothecated \$200,000 worth of forged stock of the corporation, now traces his downfall to his wife, whom he adored. His wife was extravagant. She wished to shine in society. For her sake the husband committed a crime which will cause him to end his days in prison. Let extravagant wives who are pushing their loving husbands to the verge of bankruptcy pause and reflect.

Young wife: "You are not going out to-night, are you?" Husband: "Yes, my dear; I must go back to the office and post my books. I'm afraid I'll be kept late." "Not going anywhere except to the office?" "No-o." "Well, then, step into Strong Smell & Co.'s around the corner from your office, on the way down. They'll be open until 9 o'clock. Get a couple of mackerel, and bring them home with you when you come." "Yes, my dear. Good night." Young wife, to herself, as her husband departs: "He won't do much theatre-going with those mackerel in his pocket."

THE ingredients of vaseline have a wonderful effect on fine leather, and it is fast taking the place of all the compound manufactured for retanning the shoe.

Humorous.

VACATION.

"Good-bye, dear dollars mine, good-bye,
 'Tis time that we should part;
 Vacation dawns, and now must I
 For recreation start."

So sang a youth, and sped away;
 Soon by the sounding sea
 His dollars dwindled day by day
 While he lived merrily.

Amid the breakers white he rolled,
 All careless of Old Sol;
 And many a tale of love he told
 Beneath a parasol.

Flirtation? Yes, a little—or
 Ice cream and opera airs
 Upon the pier—then still some more
 Flirtation on the stairs.

Result—a scarlet face and nose—
 The holidays all spent—
 Tin types of Lou and likewise Rose—
 Heart gone—and not a cent.

Nevertheless—The lion's share.

A blow in the dark—A curtain lecture.
 Never buy a loud cigar if you wish to
 Enjoy a quiet smoke.

A bootless attempt—To get upstairs with-
 out being heard by your wife.

Poverty is a cure for dyspepsia. Most of
 take the medicine in advance.

Bad habits keep people from attending
 church; in other words, poor clothes.

The man with a boil on his neck never
 borrows trouble. He has enough of it.

Strange is slang. It is just when you
 "get on" to a thing that you "tumble."

Somebody says that in the other world
 we will follow the occupations we follow here. But
 where will the iceman get his ice?

Picked up by the seashore: "No, I don't
 like sea-bathing. It makes my hair so wet." "Why
 don't you leave it in the dressing-room?"

"That dog of mine," said Chatterly,
 proudly, "knows as much as I do!" And Barker
 carper muttered, "What a blessing he's muzzled!"

Young housewife to husband who says
 he knows how to cook: "How long do you broil a
 chicken, Edwin?" Husband: "Oh—er—how long is
 the chicken?"

Aged friend: "You are always talking
 about your family tree." Youth: "Yes, of course." "Well, I wouldn't if I were you." "And why
 not?" "Too shady."

Tommy: "Pop, what's a philanthro-
 pist?" Mr. Gill: "A philanthropist, my son, is a
 man who would rather supply a dozen men with a
 collar apiece than give one man a shirt."

"You s-say you c-c-can tell a f-f-feller
 how to a-v-v-old stat-stut-stuttering f-for wo-wome-
 d-d-dollars. W-well, h-h-here's your d-d-dollars. How
 c-c-can I a-v-v-old stat-stut-ter-ter?" "Dear boy,
 don't talk."

"Johnny is an awful bad boy," said
 Mrs. Brown; "he hasn't sat still a moment this
 whole blessed day." "If I was his mother," re-
 turned Mrs. Slipper, "he wouldn't sit still for a
 whole month."

"You say that cognac is the best remedy
 for colic? But I find it just the other way. My hus-
 band used to be troubled very seldom, but since I
 have kept cognac in the house he complains of colic
 almost every day."

Summer boarder: "Your catalogue said
 there were no mosquitoes hereabout, Mr. Make-
 money, but I killed seven last night." Makemoney.
 "Yes, sir; no doubt, sir. But then their catalogues
 were sent out in March."

"Did everything go off pleasantly at
 school to-day, Johnny?" "Yes, mom, but some
 bad boys persuaded me to play truant." "You
 mean they tried to persuade you, Johnny; if they
 had persuaded you, you would have gone off with
 them." "That's what I did."

"You never loved me, John!" sobbed
 Mrs. Billus, hysterically. "Marla," exclaimed
 Mr. Billus, earnestly, "you are mistaken! If you
 will look back over the family expense account you
 will find that it cost us \$27.50 for repairing rocking-
 chairs during the first three years of our married
 life."

Visitor: "Well, Tommy, how are you
 getting on at school?" Tommy, aged 8: "First
 rate. I ain't doing as well as some of the other
 boys, though. I can stand on my head, but I have
 to put my feet against the fence. I want to do it
 without being near the fence at all, and I can after
 I've been to school long enough."

A teacher was giving an object lesson on
 the word "transparent." She told the children
 that water and glass were transparent because one
 could see through them, and then asked them to
 name something else that is transparent. One little
 fellow raised his hand in great ecstasy. The teacher
 said, "Well, what is it?" "A hole!" shouted the
 boy.

"What? Do you mean to say Mrs. De
 Sweet has resigned from the Women's Rights So-
 ciety, and says she has all the rights she wants?"
 "Just so." "Mercy me! What has happened?"
 "I'm sure I don't know. Johnny, have you seen
 Mrs. De Sweet lately?" "No, ma'am; but as I was
 passing her house this mornin' I saw a furniture
 wagon stop and unload a cradle."

Lecturer on phrenology, cautiously to
 men selected by audience for free examination:
 "Married, I presume?" Man: "Yes." Lecturer,
 with confidence: "Many of the protuberances, ladies
 and gentlemen, which we find upon the heads of
 persons in various walks of life may be passed by
 as having no phrenological significance, as in the
 case of the gentleman whom I am now," etc.

How to Stop a Runaway Horse.—A
 policeman, who has distinguished himself
 in stopping runaway horses, gives the fol-
 lowing points as to how to accomplish that
 end with the greatest success:

When you see a runaway coming do not
 try to check him by a rush from the oppo-
 site direction or the side, or you will be
 immediately knocked flat by the force of
 the collision; but, instead, prepare your-
 self for a short run with the horse.

Measure with your eye the distance, start
 for the run while he is yet some way off,
 perhaps 10 feet, in the case of fair to
 medium runaways.

You may depend upon his keeping a
 straight line, for a really frightened horse
 is half blind and would not veer for a
 steam engine. He will go straight ahead
 until he smashes into something.

So do not get close to the line on which
 he is rushing, and as he passes you grab
 the reins near the saddle. Gather the reins
 firmly, and then, leaning backwards as
 you run, give them a powerful yank.

You may be able to brace yourself some-
 what as you give this jerk, half sliding on
 your feet. The strong jerk on the bit tells
 the horse that he again has a master, and
 prepares him for the final struggle. A
 stop or two forward after the first yank, do
 it again. This is the finishing stroke. It
 never fails when given by a determined
 man. Keep a firm pull on the reins till
 you grasp the horse by the nostrils, and
 hold him so till he is pacified.

THE ROBIN.—There is a widely spread
 belief among schoolboys in many parts of
 the country that it is unlucky to kill a
 robin, and it is generally supposed that a
 broken limb would be the probable punish-
 ment for so doing.

Even the nest of this bird is compara-
 tively safe, though why it should be thus
 favored is not clear, unless as has been
 suggested by some writers, it owes its
 popularity to the story of the "Babe in
 the Wood," which ballad, perhaps, may
 also have given rise to the popular notion
 that the robin will cover with leaves or
 moss any dead person whom it may chance
 to find. There certainly, however, seems
 to be no substantial reason why he should
 be more favored than the other members
 of the feathered tribe, for, after all, he is a
 very pugnacious and impudent little fel-
 low; but perhaps these are the qualities
 which have brought him into notice and
 made him popular.

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 No. 3. From ear to ear
 over the top.
 No. 4. From ear to ear
 round the forehead.
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 ceive attention.

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This preparation has been manufactured and sold
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Also Dollard's Regenerative Cream, to be
 used in conjunction with the Herbarium when
 the hair is naturally dry and needs an oil.

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 tract for the hair. Mrs. Gorter has tried in vain to
 obtain anything equal to it as a dressing for the
 hair in England.

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 Norwich, Norfolk, England.

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 is the best Wash I have ever used.

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 and healthful cleanser of the hair.

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 Ex-Member of Congress, 8th District.

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 draff and dressing my hair, also for the relief of
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 claimed for it. I would not be without it.

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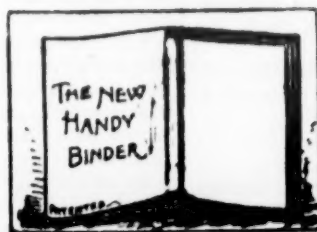
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Latest Fashion Phases.

Never was the art of clothing the female form so thoroughly studied, and so brilliantly carried out, as in the present day.

That extreme luxury in dress is an important factor in the deterioration of women's minds and morals is a fact well borne out by history, since in every age the best dressers have been the worst men and women; but the line that divides mere wanton extravagance from the taste that is but an attractive form of self-respect, is so firmly and sharply drawn, that the two classes of dressers are not likely to be for a moment confounded.

Numbers of women, married to rich men, wear their magnificent clothes as a right, and we look on approvingly; we envy a little, we admire more, but we feel that all is as it should be, and appreciate the husband's pride in seeing his wife "go beautifully."

Probably every man worth his salt likes to see his wife well appointed and not ashamed to speak with her (female) enemy in the gate; but there are many who would have to forego this privilege if their wives did not cultivate that sense of the artistic which the outcome and fruit is "taste."

"Taste," it is said, "is the mind's tact," and assuredly the mind, even more than the eye, must be brought to bear on the subject of what suits a woman, what she can afford, and what will blend harmoniously with her surroundings, and the character of her house.

We do not speak of those fortunate or reckless ones, who say to their modiste, "Dress me," and leave everything (even the color) to be decided by those brilliant artists.

They have no occasion to think, though perchance the knowledge that they had originated some strikingly beautiful conception, might assist them to wear it with a greater pride and dignity.

Granted, then, that a woman has taste, she must also be possessed of a fairly liberal amount of pin-money if she aspires to be a well-dressed individual, for of all the snares and pitfalls to be avoided and abhorred, cheap materials (no matter how pretty) must rank first.

Let trimmings go by the board if you cannot afford them to be in keeping with the stuff of which your mantles or gowns are to be made.

Buy your material first—the best of its kind—and let the estroter take care of themselves.

To make up a cheap dress costs as much as the fashioning of a good one; only, in the one case there is much after-bitterness of spirit; in the other an inward content, that waxed stronger when the "good" garment outlasts half-a-dozen of a sister's cheaper fineries.

"The more you dress a Frenchwoman the better she is, and the less you dress the average woman the better she is," is an old saying (slightly altered); and well-built women will do well to remember this when they seek to cover themselves with ribbons, braids and gimps, that serve only to fritter away the figure, and are absolute death to the clear, fine outlines that should be followed with the greatest exactitude.

Dress an average woman in a close fitting serge or quite neutral tinted tweed; give her a spotless linen collar, and cuffs to match; take away the chains and gewgaws, and tell us if she ever looked better, unless indeed it were in a pink cotton cambric, on a summer's morning, with a rose at her throat instead of a brooch.

Simplicity, simplicity, simplicity—a costly simplicity if you will—but let every dress be one idea'd, and let no unnecessary or extraneous trifles be introduced into it.

And after simplicity, or rather as a consequence of it, comes Freshness, that most desirable quality, which to a woman's clothes is much the same as a fair, healthy skin is to her face; so that to say of a woman "She always looks so fresh," is to pay the highest of all compliments to herself and her milliner.

To be simple, then (as richly as you please), to be fresh at every point, these are two long steps towards good dressing, but the third is a little longer, and infinitely harder to take—it is to dress suitably, not only to your station and age, but to your appearance, your character and your house.

Take your complexion first. Are you fair, with blue eyes? Then you can wear every shade of blue, from azure down to violet; but if you have gray, green or brown eyes, you will only create a discordancy if you suffer a morsel of blue near.

On the other hand, a perfectly fair, green-eyed woman adds weirdness and charm to her fairness when she arrays herself in all the paler shades of green, and she reigns triumphant in the knowledge that not even the clearest-skinned bruns dares to emulate her.

For bruns, scarlet and amber, white and orange, though if there be the smallest tint of yellow in the skin, orange may be only ventured at night.

Some women who might come under the heading of blondes, stand vivid yellows and oranges well; still there must be a certain amount of color in the face, and a skin transparently fair.

But up to the age of forty, and frequently beyond it, the typical healthy, fresh-looking woman is at her very best in white, as often (oddly enough, judging by the law of contrast) she is at her worst in black.

Give her a white morning wrapper, or a cotton dress, or even a white muslin bib to her dark dress, and she looks shades fairer, and more rosy than in an unrelieved winter gown.

Many a woman sitting up in her white bed, with only white cambric and embroidery about her, will strike one as a sweetly pretty creature, who in dark clothes would never arrest our attention.

It may be taken as a safe axiom, that the nearer colors approach to white, the more becoming they are to the wearer, and that the reason why we see so many pretty faces in summer, and so few in winter, lies in the difference of dress.

There are women who look well and distinguished in black, and black only, but they usually relieve their darkness with flashes of diamonds, and a wholly unrelieved black costume can only be successfully worn by a very lovely person.

Nevertheless, black for the streets, when walking, should be the rule and not the exception, with any well-dressed woman.

We are assured that the Empire style of dress is to continue to carry all before it. Women cling to their under petticoats, and petticoats beneath an Empire gown is an impossibility.

The sartorial inventory of a lady's wardrobe at the end of the last century as consisting of an unlimited number of head-dresses, of as many pairs of sandals, double that amount of dresses, and twelve chemises was not so ridiculous as might be supposed.

Mrs. Recamier and her friends used to damp their robes that they might fall more closely to their shapes; but perhaps rheumatism was not then, as now, the fashionable complaint of the day, and the atmosphere of Paris was possibly drier than elsewhere.

Washing silk is trimmed with moire and lined with under flounces of double sanitary crepe. The newest make of skirt for three-quarter lengths is arranged in kilts.

The hats are made to go with cloaks and frocks, made in sanitary crepe and trimmed with brocatelle ribbon. Some of the best shapes have loops of cord outside.

Others are made of the silk sprigged canmere, and many have high bows upstanding on the crown. A new hat is made entirely of gulfure, gauged and trimmed with watered ribbon.

The orchid crown is new, with the flower faithfully carried out. Any shape can be had in that most useful material, gauze, which looks like a foulard ribbon with a satin edge, and can be had in all colors.

Gainsborough hats in this material are of the seal-brown, gray, holland and red tones. Percale, pique and organdie muslin are used alike for bonnets and hats, and are often embroidered.

A cloth mantle for children is made with a yoke, the skirt portion gathered to it and pinked all round.

Odds and Ends.

SOME GREEK RECIPES.

Red Mullet.—Flour and salt the mullet, and fry crispy in oil. To the same oil add an equal quantity of vinegar, a little chopped rosemary, a sprinkling of flour, and some garlic if agreeable. Boil up, and when cold pour over the mullet.

Fillet of Sole a la Cafe Riche.—Take some fillets of soles; boil the bones, and add 1 lb. of flour and 2 oz. of butter to the liquor, with the beaten yolk of an egg. To make the fillet pink add some lobster spawn pounded with butter in a mortar. Spread the mixture on each fillet; boil very gently, dish up, and pour sauce over, to which some cut oysters and fine shreds of lobster have been added.

Meat Prepared for Artichoke Entrees.

Take 1 lb. of steak and ¼ lb. of suet, put ¼ lb. of butter in a stewpan with one cup of stock, and a small bottled onion from which the water has been pressed out; add the meat and suet, and simmer for three hours, stirring frequently. When quite dry and browned, turn on to a dish, and fill either artichokes or marrow with the mixture. The vegetables should be first boiled in stock with chopped tomatoes.

Kromeski Batter.—Stir lightly one-quarter of a pound of flour into a gill of warm water, with a tablespoonful of oil, a pinch of salt, and the well-whisked white of an egg.

Pilaff a la Morea (for two).—Put one cup of tomato sauce with half a pint of stock into a saucepan, and when boiling add a large cupful of rice. Boil rather fast for a quarter of an hour, and then add one-quarter of a pound of boiling oiled butter. Let it stand for three minutes, and dish up with either braised larks, green peas, or chicken livers.

Julien Sauce.—2 oz. of butter, two shallots, one bayleaf four mushrooms, one sprig of thyme, four peppercorns, a small bunch of parsley, 1 lb. of flour, one gill of white wine, and half a pint of stock. The liquid ingredients should first be allowed to boil, and the rest added by degrees, well chopped and shredded, and then the whole allowed to simmer gently by the fire.

Egg Sauce for Stuffed Artichokes, Marrows and other Entrees.—Allow the juice of two lemons to boil in a stewpan, and then add the yolks and whites of two eggs well whisked, and pour over the entrees.

Green Sauce.—Pound a plateful of well-washed parsley in a mortar, add a teacupful of soaked bread, eight boned anchovies, two tablespoonfuls of vinegar, and about half a pint of salad dressing by degrees.

Beignets Souffles.—Take a large cup of water and 1 ½ oz. of butter, boil, and add one large cup of flour, stirring well until it leaves the side of the saucepan, and add one by one four or five eggs, until the dough is perfectly smooth and firm; fill a baking sheet by dropping pieces from a tablespoon. Bake a quarter of an hour, open the pieces with a knife and fill in with compote.

Cases for Nougat.—Take the weight of two eggs in the best sugar, the weight of one in almonds, a very little flour, and mix with the yolks and whites of two eggs. Drop in small pieces on a baking sheet, bake about a quarter of an hour, shapeliike small sugar bags, and when cold fill with compote and whipped cream.

Apricot Cream.—Take a tin of preserved apricots, turn out the contents into a saucepan, add 2 oz. of sugar, let them boil for a quarter of an hour, and pass them through a tammy. Dissolve 1 oz. or seven sheets of the best gelatine in a little milk, whip to a froth a pint of cream. Mix the gelatine with the apricot pulp, then quickly work into it the cream, pour the mixture into a mould and put it on ice to set. When wanted, dip the mould in hot water and turn out the cream.

Pineapple Cream.—Take a tin of preserved pineapple, pound the contents in a mortar, add 6 oz. of sugar, and half a pint of water; boil for a quarter of an hour and pass it through a tammy, dissolve seven or eight sheets of the best gelatine in a little milk, whip to a froth one pint of cream, mix the gelatine with the pineapple pulp, then quickly work it into the cream. Pour the mixture into a mould, and put it on ice to set, and turn it out when wanted.

A White Soup.—Wash and soak ½ lb. of pearl barley, drain it on a sieve, and then put it into a saucepan with one quart of white stock. Let it boil for two hours very gently, take out two handfuls of the barley and rub the rest through a sieve. Ten minutes before serving, the stock, after having been allowed to cool, should be boiled up, adding the yolks of three or four eggs, some cream, and a little butter. Stir gently until quite smooth.

A Vegetable Soup.—Wash thoroughly a lettuce, a handful of sorrel, cabbage and spinach, then shred into small pieces, and put over the fire, with 2 oz. of butter, for at least ten minutes, turning over the vegetables with a fork the while. To this add one quart of hot stock, and simmer for one hour, only letting it boil up at the last. Then add four yolks of eggs, and return to the fire, taking care the soup does not boil after the eggs have been added. Stir in a pint of good cream, a piece of butter rolled in flour, and serve in a hot tureen.

Confidential Correspondents.

A.—An "altruist" is one who is careful of the interests of others.

UPTON.—A gentleman's visiting card should be smaller than a lady's. Any engraver will give you the proper size.

GREELEY.—A "parole" is a verbal promise, given by a soldier or prisoner of war, that he will not abuse the liberty granted to him.

MADGE.—"Hypnotism" means a condition resembling sleep, artificially produced by the magnetic effect of one mind upon another.

DAPHNE.—The dictionary definition of love is "an affection of the heart excited by that which delights or commands admiration."

SCAT.—The term Honorable has been applied to almost everybody who ever held any office, but such titles are not necessary nor authorized by law.

HARRIS.—Property in this State owned by and standing in the names of husband and wife can be occupied by either, without payment of rent; if rented, each is entitled to half of the rent.

J. M. B.—To ascertain how many cords there are in a pile of wood multiply the length by the height, and that by the width, and divide the product by 128. (2) Round timber when squared loses one-fifth.

UPSET.—The pronunciation of crematory is a disputed question, three different ways being sanctioned by as many authorities. However, you will be safe in using kre-ma-to-ry, with the accent on the first syllable.

SALEM, N.—A lady should not permit a gentleman to take her arm unless he is disabled or unable for good reasons to offer his to her. An invalid or an old person may lean upon a young lady's arm, but a young man never.

PLENTY.—When the Saracens threatened destruction to all Christian nations the Angelus bell began to be tolled at morning, noon and night, that all the faithful might unite in prayer to the Virgin Mary and invoke her blessing upon the Crusaders.

PATRIOTISM.—Great Britain is the greatest commercial power in the world. Her government has bent every energy to the advancement of commercial interests, and there seems to be a better understanding and closer union between her political and commercial affairs than in this or any other country.

GARLIGHT.—It is very injurious to your sight to be working in daytime by artificial light for such long hours. You should get the gas shaded in your part of the office. Bathe the eyes daily with cold water, and an infusion of cold tea, used as a lotion, will often strengthen weak eyes, but the glare of the burner is the root of evil.

SCRANTON.—The manufacture of silk has reached a higher development in the United States than many are aware. In 1880 there were 382 establishments, having a total capital of \$19,125,300, employing 31,387 hands and disbursing annually \$9,146,705 in wages. The net value of the material used was \$18,539,166, and of the products \$34,519,723.

LENCHEN.—Unless you have letters from him, you cannot bring action. If you have letters, you may obtain damages in a United States court; but then you must catch him here in order to obtain payment. You can do nothing—and we advise you to leave the matter alone, for you will only plunge into deeper expense, and gain nothing in the end.

BALLOTTER.—The first Republican National Convention was held in 1856, and nominated John C. Fremont for President, for which he received 1,341,264 votes against 1,838,169 for James Buchanan, Democrat, who was elected. Fillmore was the American candidate and received 874,584 votes. The electoral vote stood: Buchanan, 174; Fremont, 114; Fillmore, 8.

BANE.—Scrofula is an inherited disease, and is therefore not easily gotten rid of, but its evil effects can be greatly lessened by plain food, constant exercise in the open air and strict cleanliness. By conforming to these simple rules, sleeping in a well ventilated room and letting quack medicines alone your general health will improve and the scrofulous symptoms be less pronounced.

T. C.—We would advise you to send a light blue French merino dress to a cleaner of such articles; it is a color which requires most careful treatment. You might try a small piece by the "bran" process, in the way in which crewel work is washed (i. e., in warm, soft water, in which bran has been boiled, the material being dried in the shade, and then ironed); but it is very likely not to answer so well as the dry method, which can only be done well by one of the trade.

COMTE.—Pessimism, according to a recent authority, may be briefly defined as despair endowed with personality. In the soul of the pessimist no sun of gladness ever arises, and in his life no star of hope is visible. Pure pessimism is not only hostile to religion, but it is the very negation of all that religion stands for. Nor is cynicism much better. A cynic is a man who tries to make himself out to be much worse than he is, in order to give himself an excuse to think that he is much better than he is. He is the incarnation of that flippant disbelief in goodness which utterly destroys all the enthusiasm and ideals of religion. Optimism, on the other hand, may be defined as sunshine. The optimist regards the ills and evils of existence as temporary episodes, and looks upon sorrow and pain as the minor chords in the majestic diapason of life. All optimists are not necessarily optimists all the time.

CURIOUS.—Various explanations have been given of the popular custom of throwing an old shoe after a bridal couple. Some think that it was originally intended as a mock assault on the bridegroom, and hence a survival of the ceremony of opposition to the capture of a bride. Others suppose that the shoe was formerly a symbol of the authority over her by her father or guardian; the receipt of the shoe by the bridegroom thus indicating that the authority was transferred to him. By most people, however, the shoe throwing is considered to be merely a symbolical of good fortune. Constant allusions to the practice occur in our old writers. Beaumont and Fletcher, for instance, thus refer to it:—

"Captain, your shoes are old; pray put 'em off, and let one fling 'em after us;"

while Ben Jonson, in his Masque of the Gipsies, makes one of the gipsies say:—

"Hurle after an old shoe, I'll be merry whate'er I do."